# ONEGAI TWINS

Original Creator: **Please!**
Illustrator: **Akikan**

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*Please! Someone tell me which one is my twin sister!!*

*Maiku Kamishiro has a problem. Actually, make that two problems. He has two young girls boarding at his house, each claiming that they're his long-lost twin sister! To make matters worse, both are crushing on him hard, and who knows what goes on in the Kamishiro household when there's no parents or guardian around? Thanks to the voyeuristic student body president Ichigo, we all stay well informed. Toss in everyone's favorite alien teacher, Ms. Mizuho, his classmate Kosei's spicy machismo, and vice-president Tsubaki's lovely lady bumps — Maiku's life will never be the same!*

*It's the long-waited comic adaptation of the* ***Onegai Twins****, packed with a surprise ending you don't want to miss!*

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THE NEWS REPORT ABOUT THE UFO...
I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM

IT WASN'T THE TOPIC THAT CAUGHT MY EYE.
BUT SOMETHING THAT WAS IN THE BACKGROUND.

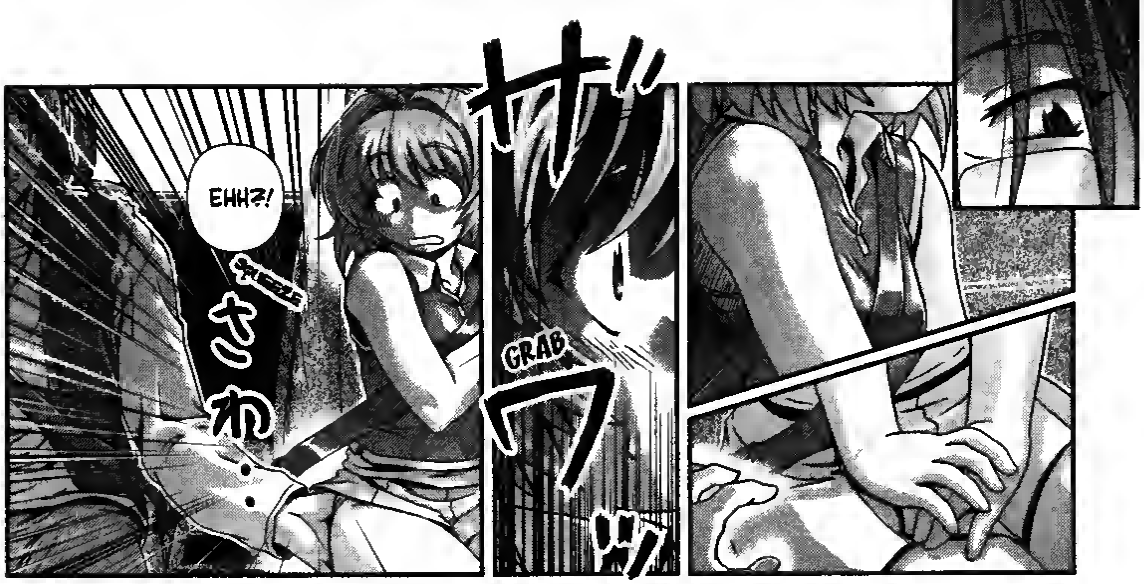
SO, THAT'S WHY...
I SAW A HOUSE
I HAD ONLY EVER SEEN IN A PHOTO.

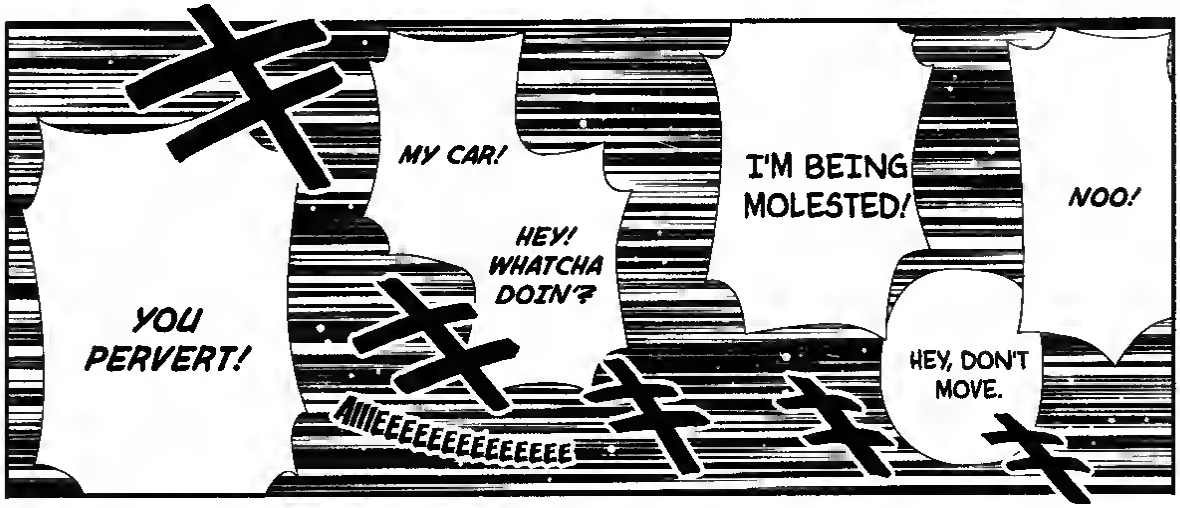
I CAME TO
THIS PLACE.

# CHAPTER ONE

PLEASE BE CARE-FUL WHEN STEPPING OFF THE TRAIN
NEXT STOP, INAO.
パアアア...
VROOOM
...THE SAME COLOR...

...EYES...
チラ
GLANCE
どきっ
THUMP
SQUEE!!
?
ハアアアア。。
VROOOM
...ARE WE ALMOST THERE?
I SEE....
GOT A WAYS TO GO YET.


EHH?!
さわ・・
GRAB
ワシッ


MY CAR!
HEY! WHATCHA DOIN'?
YOU PERVERT!
AIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEE
I'M BEING MOLESTED!
NOO!
HEY, DON'T MOVE.

MY CAR...
SLOSH
ずずぶ
SLOSH

SCREECH

SHAAA
IT'S TERRIBLE WHAT HE DID, BUT I CAN'T SYMPATHIZE...
SEIKAIN-OKUCHI...? IT'S JUST OVER THERE.
HE LIED TO YOU

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ANYWAY, ON A SCHOOL DAY?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT GUY, DID YOU?
IT'S PARTIALLY YOUR FAULT FOR GETTING IN A CAR WITH HIM.

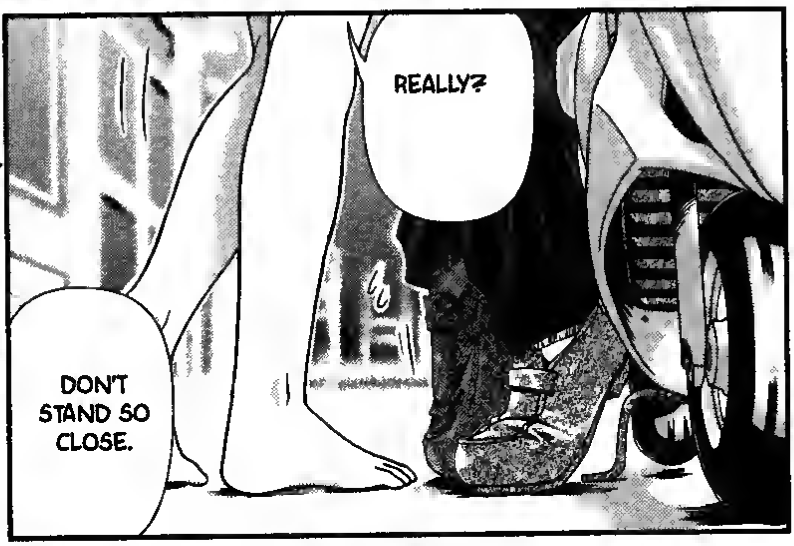
NO...
キュッ...
TURN
THEN...

TRYING TO FIND YOURSELF BY HITCH-HIKING?

OH
...
...
SORRY
...
IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.
すぃ
PIQUE
THE SAME...
EYE COLOR.

MINE ARE NATURAL.
MINE TOO.
AH, OH...
AREN'T COLOR CONTACTS IN THESE DAYS?

DING
DONG
DING
Huh?
didn't mean it like that.


REALLY?
DON'T STAND SO CLOSE.

IS THERE A SCHOOL AROUND HERE?
Oh, that was a school bell
SEE YA!!
VROOOOM

KAMISHIRO-KUN,
THIS MAKES YOUR SEVENTH TARDY...
THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT.
ペコ
BOW
I'M SORRY.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON,
パタン
SHUT
AND SO DO I...
ARE YOU GETTING USED TO LIVING ON YOUR OWN?
HOW ARE YOU EATING?
CRUNCH
YEAH, I'VE UNPACKED ALL MY BOXES.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A NORMAL SITUATION, BUT...
I MANAGE.

はくしっ
AChOO
SHALL I MAKE YOU DINNER?
NO.
THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOUR HUSBAND.
ANYWAY, IN THE FUTURE,
I'LL DO...
BETTER...
SO, I'LL LET YOU...
CREAAK
ガラ
スス・
SNEAK
ピシャ
SLAM
GET BACK TO WORK.
KAMISHIRO-KUN...
IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

IT'S AGAINST SCHOOL RULES TO RIDE A SCOOTER.
SEMPAI...
HEH, IF YOU'RE GONNA HIDE IT,
YOU SHOULD DO A BETTER JOB.
WHISPER
PLEASE DON'T TELL.
A-ALL RIGHT
とくん HEART BEAT
THANKS.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

IT'S THIS SEMESTER'S BUDGET FOR EACH CLASS.
BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN BALANCED YET.
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF IT.
WHAT'S THIS?
OR...
THEN, HOW ABOUT YOU BRING ME LUNCH FOR TWO WEEKS, TOO.
...THAT'S GENEROUS FOR BLACKMAIL.
THUMP
WHICH WILL IT BE?
WAGGLE
A... DATE?
A DATE WITH ME!

I'LL TAKE THE LUNCH.
CLICK
...
SIGH...
AH!
SHOT DOWN.
IS HE THE ONE WHO YOU TOLD ME ABOUT - MAIKU KAMISHIRO-KUN?
C-CLASS PRESI-DENT?
THE FRESHMAN WITH THE BLUE EYES, ONLY HALF JAPANESE.
HE LIVES ALONE OFF HIS EARNINGS AS A FREE-LANCE PRO-GRAMMER.

HE HAS NO TIME FOR A GIRL-FRIEND.
BECAUSE HE'S SO CAUGHT UP IN THAT...
ラ
ガ
ラ
SHHCK
HE DOESN'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND!
HEY-- HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
STEP
STEP
RIDES A SCOOTER TO SCHOOL.
HE ALSO
THUD
CLACK
DASH

BLUSH
LOVE...?

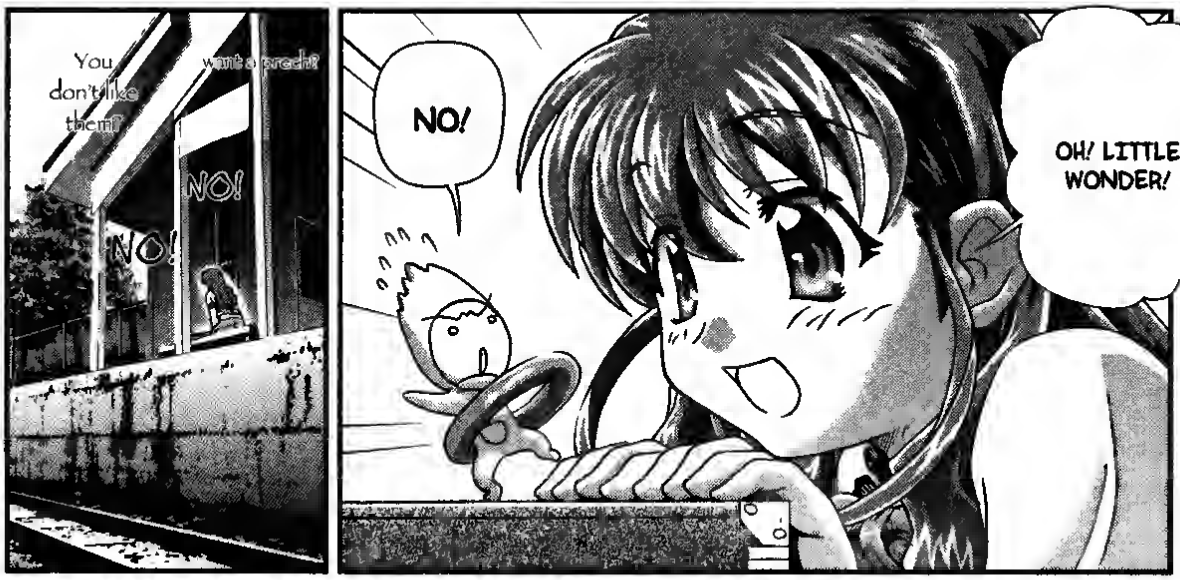
DON'T TELL ANYONE!

COULD IT BE...
CRINKLE
CRINKLE

CREAK
SO, THAT'S WHY I...

SO I THOUGHT HE'D BE A BIG HELP IF HE JOINED THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
BUT HE'S REALLY TALENTED.
O-OF COURSE NOT!

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
QUIT LAUGHING LIKE YOU KNOW SOMETHING!
ヒソ
SLAM
ガラ
CREAAAAK
HEH HEH HEH!




*PRECH. SIMILAR TO POCKY, A BISCUIT STICK COVERED WITH CHOCOLATE, POPULAR IN JAPAN

OH, YOU CAN'T BE...
THAT'S CRUEL.
UH, THE DUE DATE?
YOU CAN'T EXPECT IT WITHIN THE WEEK...
CONFIDENTIAL
BUDGET PROPOSAL
KIZAKI PREFECTURE HIGH SCHOOL
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
WE'RE PAYING YOU VERY WELL!
AND THAT'S WHAT LETS YOU SUPPORT YOURSELF ON YOUR OWN.
DING-DONG
NO GOOD WILL COME OF THAT LOVE.
...FINE. I'LL DO IT.
I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOU, MAIKU-KUN. I LOVE YOU.

ピンポーン
DING DONG
Don't keep ringing it...
NOW WHAT...?
ガラ
CREAK
HUH? YOU'RE...
OH! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHY...?
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
NO WAY!
WAY.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MAYBE THIS IS DESTINY!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS PICTURE?
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO, YOU HAVE SEEN IT.

YOU DO EXIST!
I FOUND YOU!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
I'M TRYING TO GET SOMEWHERE...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
NO NO
TO THE HOUSE IN THIS PICTURE.
NO?

I'M KAREN ONODERA.
OH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF.

WE'RE TWINS.
I'M RELATED TO YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M MIINA MIYAFUJI.

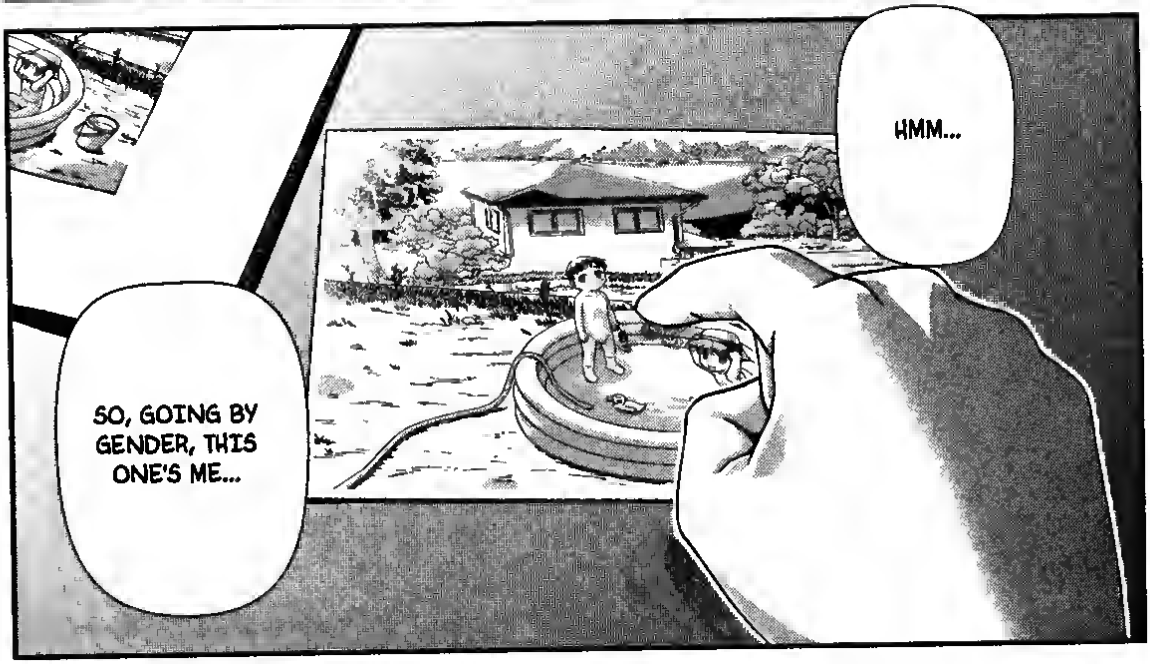
YOU'RE MY TWIN...
...SISTER?
I'M MAIKU KAMISHIRO.
I WANTED IT TO BE A BEGIN-NING...

I WANTED TO FIND MY MEMORIES.
IF I GO THERE, I MIGHT MEET THEM.
YEP!
I WANTED TO CLING TO HER.
THAT'S WHY...
TO KAREN'S HOUSE...

# CHAPTER TWO

THIS PICTURE'S THE SAME AS MINE.

YEAH. IT'S THE ONLY THING I BROUGHT WITH ME.


HMM...
SO, GOING BY GENDER, THIS ONE'S ME...

# CHAPTER TWO

THIS ONE PHOTO MAKES US FRATERNAL TWINS?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
FLAP
FLAP
MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE. THEN WHY DID YOU JUST COME NOW?
DID THE NEWS TWO YEARS AGO
THE ONE ABOUT THE UFO?
YES, THE HOUSE FROM MY CHILDHOOD, WHICH I HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR, WAS ON THE TV.
TWIRL
TWIRL

AND, TODAY, I FINALLY MADE IT HERE!
THEN, I WORKED TO SAVE MONEY FOR THE TRIP,
WHISPER
MY STORY'S THE SAME.
AND WE MET AND HAVE THE SAME COLOR EYES!
すぅ
WOOSH
GET OFF ME.
IT MUST BE FATE!
ACTUALLY, I FOUND ANOTHER PERSON WITH IT TODAY.
WHAT? REALLY?
TAP
TAP
THIS EYE COLOR...
ISN'T IT RARE?

YOU MEAN THAT PERSON'S THE BOY IN THE PHOTO. NOT YOU?
I DON'T THINK SO.
IT WAS A VERY QUIET-LOOKING GIRL.
...SIGH
MIDDLE
MIDDLE
MIDDLE
とぼ STEP
とぼ STEP

SO, I'LL COME TO IT IF I FOLLOW THE LAKE?
I GUESS SO...
NO NO NO NOOO!
NO?
UM... IS IT FAR?
I'M A BIT TIRED.

...SO, SEEM FAMILIAR?
I'M USING THIS ONE AS MY ROOM...
EVERYTHING ELSE IS PRETTY MUCH EMPTY.

IT WAS A MESS INSIDE AND OUT WHEN I GOT HERE.
WELL, THAT KEPT THE PRICE LOW.
IT SURE IS CLEAN...
POKE POKE
...
IT'S PRETTY BIG. THIS MIGHT BE GREAT!
たたたた
STOMP
STOMP
I'VE RENO-VATED IT OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS.
THEN, I GUESS THAT'S WHY IT DOESN'T LEAVE AN IMPRESSION
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG BAG.
IT'S EVERYTHING I OWN.
CLAP
ぱんぱん
CLAP
PLOP
どん

YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF MOVING IN HERE, ARE YOU?!
YEP! WE'RE RELATIVES! TWINS!
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU'RE THE GIRL IN THE PHOTO!
HMPH
I DON'T.
IT'S LIKE I DON'T EXIST.
I WAS ABANDONED RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN, WITHOUT ANY IDENTIFICATION.
...IT'S THE SAME STORY WITH ME.
HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW YOU'RE THE BOY IN THE PICTURE?!
WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, EITHER!

I WILL SAY THIS.
I PAY MONEY TO RENT IT.
THIS IS MY HOUSE NOW.
BUT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME...

I GREW UP LOOKING AT THAT PICTURE...
...OF THE HOUSE WHERE I WAS BORN.
IF I'M FROM HERE, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE HERE, DON'T I?

I'M SORRY TO ASK SO MUCH OF YOU,
BUT IT REALLY *IS* IMPORTANT.
...

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
IT WAS NICE TO HAVE A HOME COOKED MEAL AGAIN.
...YOU REALLY ARE GOOD AT COOKING.
I WAS IN AN ORPHANAGE...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING UNTIL NOW?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
MIGHT THAT BE THE DECIDING FACTOR?
HEH HEH, AND I DO LAUNDRY WELL.
SOME PEOPLE TOOK ME IN, BUT,
WELL, A LOT HAPPENED.
SPOOSH
DID YOU ALWAYS LIVE THERE?

BUT ISN'T IT AMAZING, JUST THE SAME?
NATURALLY, A LOT HAPPENES AFTER BEING ABANDONED.
IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME.
WHAT'S AMAZING?
STEP
WHAT? ON A COMPUTER? OR SOMETHING MORE DANGEROUS, OR SEXY?
YOU'RE RENTING THIS HOUSE...
WHADDYA THINK?!
YEAH, BECAUSE I'VE GOT MY PROGRAMMING WORK.

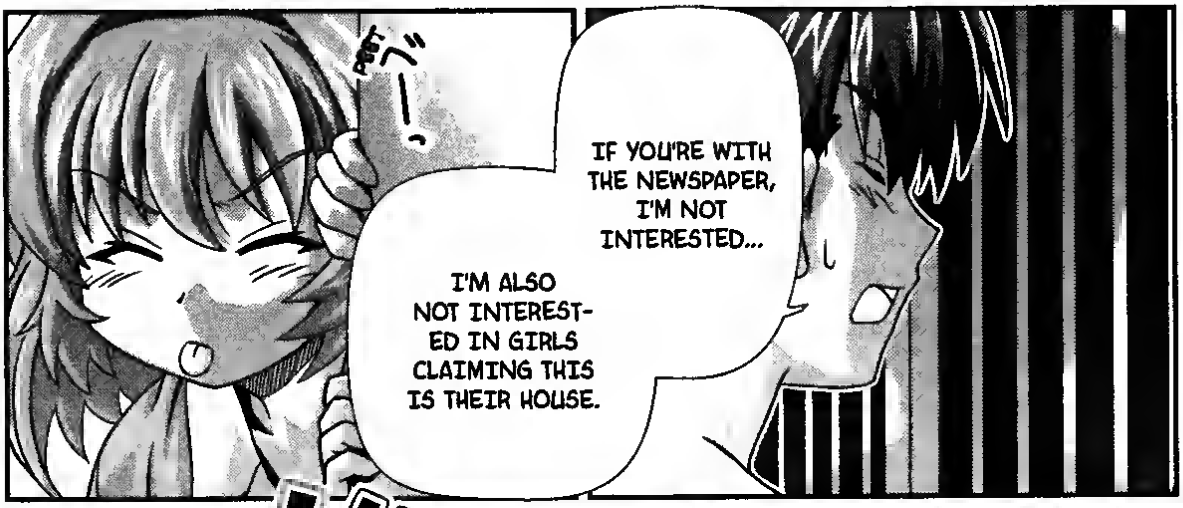
CLICK
カタ
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'VE STUDIED HARD TO LIVE ALONE LIKE THIS...
SQUEAK
BUT IF SHE'S REALLY MY TWIN SISTER...
THAT'S UNREALISTIC. I'M BARELY MAKING IT ON MY OWN
LET HER LIVE WITH ME?
STEP
トン
STEP
トン
SQUEAK

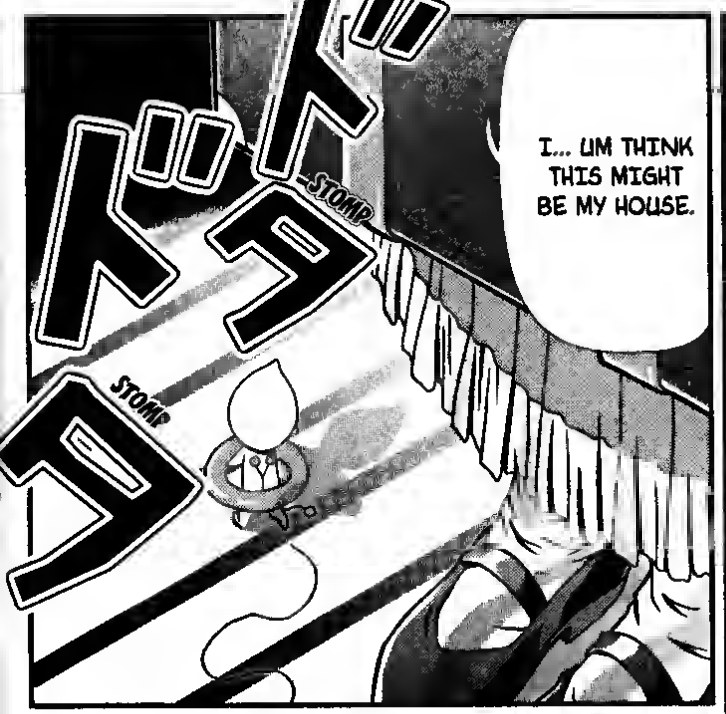
UM...
SLIDE
WHAT?
ARE YOU GONNA LET ME STAY?
TURN
NEVER MIND!
TURN
SHIT...
WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
SPLASH
IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO GET SO WORKED UP.

ピンポーン
DING DONG
DDD
This shampoo isn't mine...
WANT ME TO WASH YOUR BACK?
NO, THANKS!
DON'T ANSWER IT!
SLAM
たたたた

AUGH!
SLIP
INTRODUCE ME AS YOUR TWIN SISTER.
GRAB
OH...
わしっ
S-SORRY...
NO... I'M SORRY
SILENCE
じー

ANYWAY, I'LL GET THIS!
YOU GO WAIT INSIDE.


IF YOU'RE WITH THE NEWSPAPER, I'M NOT INTERESTED...
I'M ALSO NOT INTEREST-ED IN GIRLS CLAIMING THIS IS THEIR HOUSE.


I... UM THINK THIS MIGHT BE MY HOUSE.
STOMP
STOMP

YOU... HAVE?

WAIT--
WHAT DID
YOU SAY?!
SLAM
Na..ked...
you're
the girl
from...
SILENCE
SQUEE?
SQUEE...
EEEEEEEEE

I TEND TO FAINT
WHEN I GET TOO EXCITED.
I-I'M SORRY TO CAUSE TROUBLE...
I'M MIINA MIYAFUJI.
UM, I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M KAREN ONODERA.
DOESN'T MATTER.
AND NEXT TO ME IS...
THE PROBLEM IS...

PROBABLY SOMEONE JUST COPIED IT, SILLY.
WHO'RE YOU CALLING SILLY?
THAT WE HAVE THREE OF THE SAME PHOTO!
ONE OF US MUST NOT BE RELATED TO THE OTHERS.
I MEAN, THERE ARE ONLY TWO KIDS IN THE PICTURE,
BUT THREE OF US HAVE THE PHOTO
UM... IN MY CASE...
SHE LEFT THAT PICTURE WITH ME.
I HEARD FROM THE PEOPLE WHO RAISED ME...
SAME HERE!
WHEN MY MOM LEFT ME...

MORE SIMILARITIES!
WE'RE LIKE SOUL-MATES.
We even have the same color eyes!
THAT, I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?
Y-YES...
PIQUE
WHICH MEANS YOU WANT TO LIVE HERE, TOO, I GUESS?
SOUL-MATES, HUH...?
WHAT IF THIS KID HERE IS REALLY...
ARE WE ON FIRST-NAME TERMS ALREADY?
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT IF YOU'RE THE UNRELATED ONE, MAIKU?

PUNCH!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
?
?
ANYWAY, IT'S LATE.
YOU CAN BOTH STAY THE NIGHT.
YOU CAN USE MY BED, BUT...
I WANT TO GET SOME WORK DONE,
SO TAKE A BATH AND STAY OUT OF MY WAY FOR A WHILE.
MAIKU...
MAIKU KAMI-SHIRO.
UM...
WOULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?

I USED YOUR SHAMPOO.
THANKS.
NO PROBLEM. SO WHAT'D YOU THINK OF MAIKU KAMISHIRO?
HE'S A LITTLE SCARY.
YOU THINK?
I WENT TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, SO I'M NOT USED TO BOYS.
ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL? SHE REALLY IS A GIRL THEN...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
HE DOES TALK A BIT ROUGH,
AND SEEMS FULL OF HIMSELF...

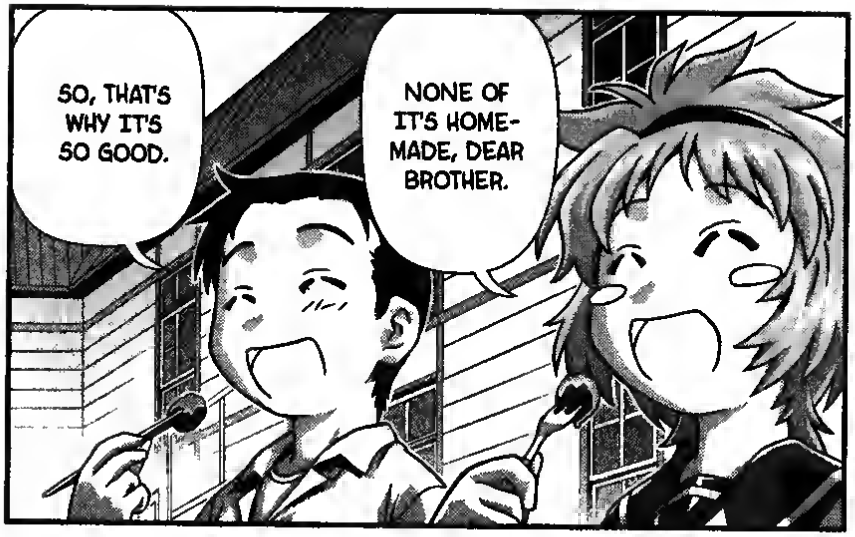
TWO OF THE THREE OF US ARE TWINS.
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
I THINK THAT SHOWS HE'S DECENT AND NICE.
BUT HE DIDN'T TELL US TO GET OUT.
WHAT AM I THINK-ING?!
SLAM ガッ
SQUEEZE にぎ
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
AT LEAST THEY'RE GIRLS.
THAT FEELING WAS
SQUEEZE にぎ
SIGH はぁ
IF I'M THE BOY, THE TWIN MUST BE A GIRL.
BUT THEY BOTH LOOK SO...
HUH?
AH!
SHHK ガシ
YOU SEEM TO KNOW MAIKU PRETTY WELL.

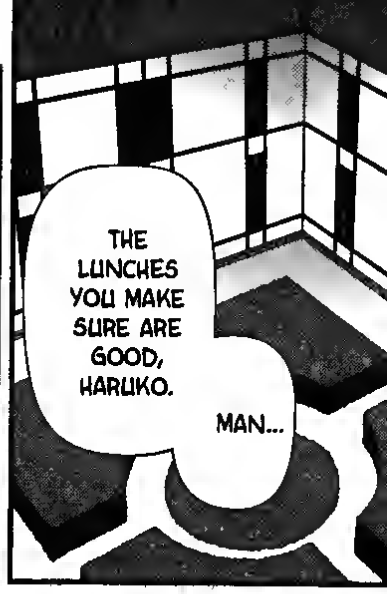
YUP. DEFINITELY A GIRL.
SQUEE...
WHIMPER
I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE.
SQUEEEEE!

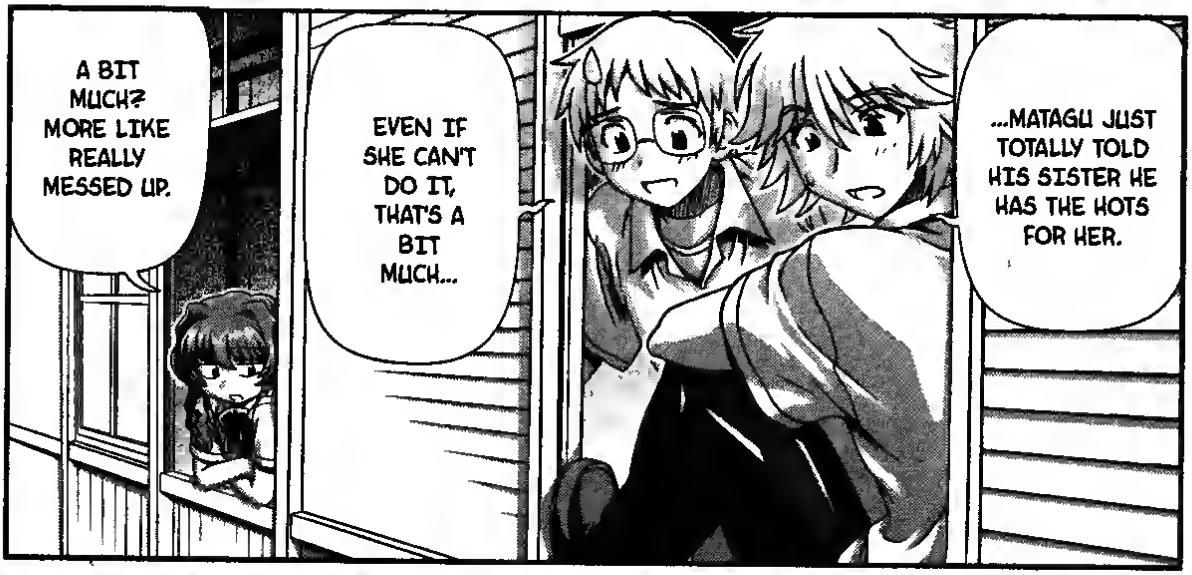
CHAPTER 3
PRETTY IMPRESSIVE TO FORGET YOUR BAG ENTIRELY.
MAIKU-KUN.
SHUT UP.
TROUBLES AT HOME?
DON'T ASK.

WE MUST LOOK LIKE A COUPLE,
SHARING A TEXTBOOK LIKE THIS.
DON'T TALK TO ME.
BAM
BLOW
SHIVER
OH... I'M WET.
I'LL PUNCH YOU.
CRUMPLE

K-KAMISHIRO-KUN...
I DIDN'T KNOW...
So they really are!
I thought so.
よろ...
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!


SO, THAT'S WHY IT'S SO GOOD.
NONE OF IT'S HOME-MADE, DEAR BROTHER.


THE LUNCHES YOU MAKE SURE ARE GOOD, HARUKO.
MAN...


A BIT MUCH? MORE LIKE REALLY MESSED UP.
EVEN IF SHE CAN'T DO IT, THAT'S A BIT MUCH...
...MATAGU JUST TOTALLY TOLD HIS SISTER HE HAS THE HOTS FOR HER.

MORINO'S REALLY GETTING A KICK OUTTA THIS.
GOOD-BYE, SHIDO-KUN.
IF HE EVER ACTUALLY MAKES A MOVE ON HIS SISTER, IT'S OVER.
Do you like me, Haruko?
I'll pass on the perverts. Thanks!

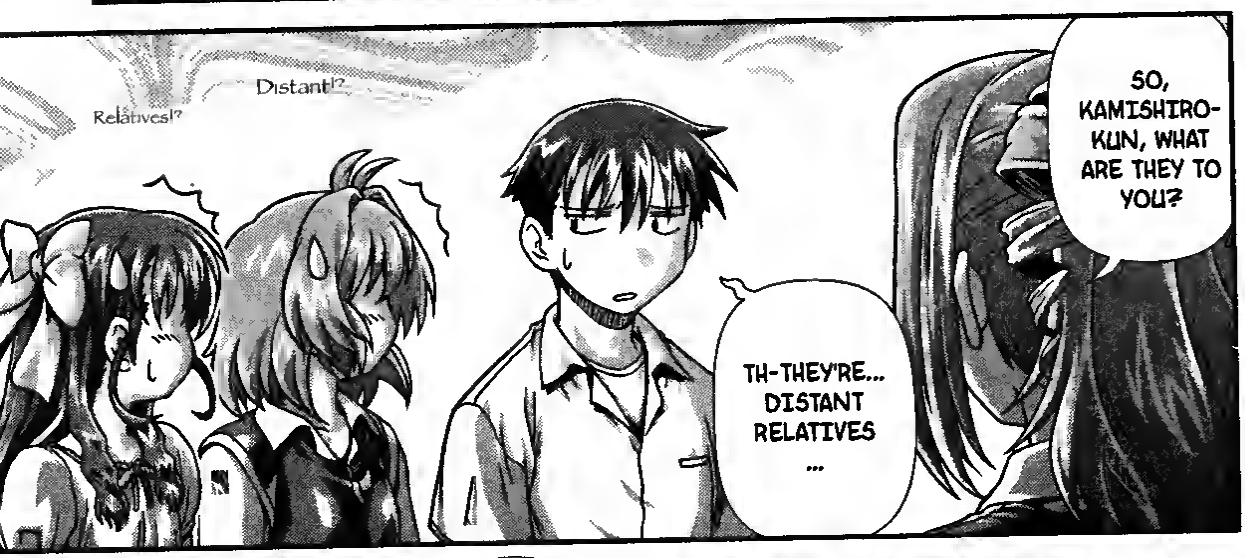
BESIDES ...
I'M NOT INTEREST-ED IN BECOMING A MARTYR.
SHE SHOULD JUST GO OUT WITH MATAGU.
ODD
IT'S GOTTEN MORE INTEREST-ING OVER THERE.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SLURP
I JUST FORGOT MY WALLET
I'LL PAY YOU BACK.
ODD
THANKS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME OF MY LUNCH?
SMILE
This is my chance
NO, I DON'T LIKE SQUASH.
HEY, MAIKU!
SMACK
SMACK
ARE YOU READING THEIR LIPS?

...
SINCE WE WERE COMING, ANYWAY, WE MADE YOU A LUNCH.
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU FORGOT YOUR BAG.
WE MADE SQUASH, JUST FOR YOU!
SPRAY
SQUEEZE
SPURT
YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!
KAMISHIRO-KUN?
...
QUIVER
WHO WERE THEY?

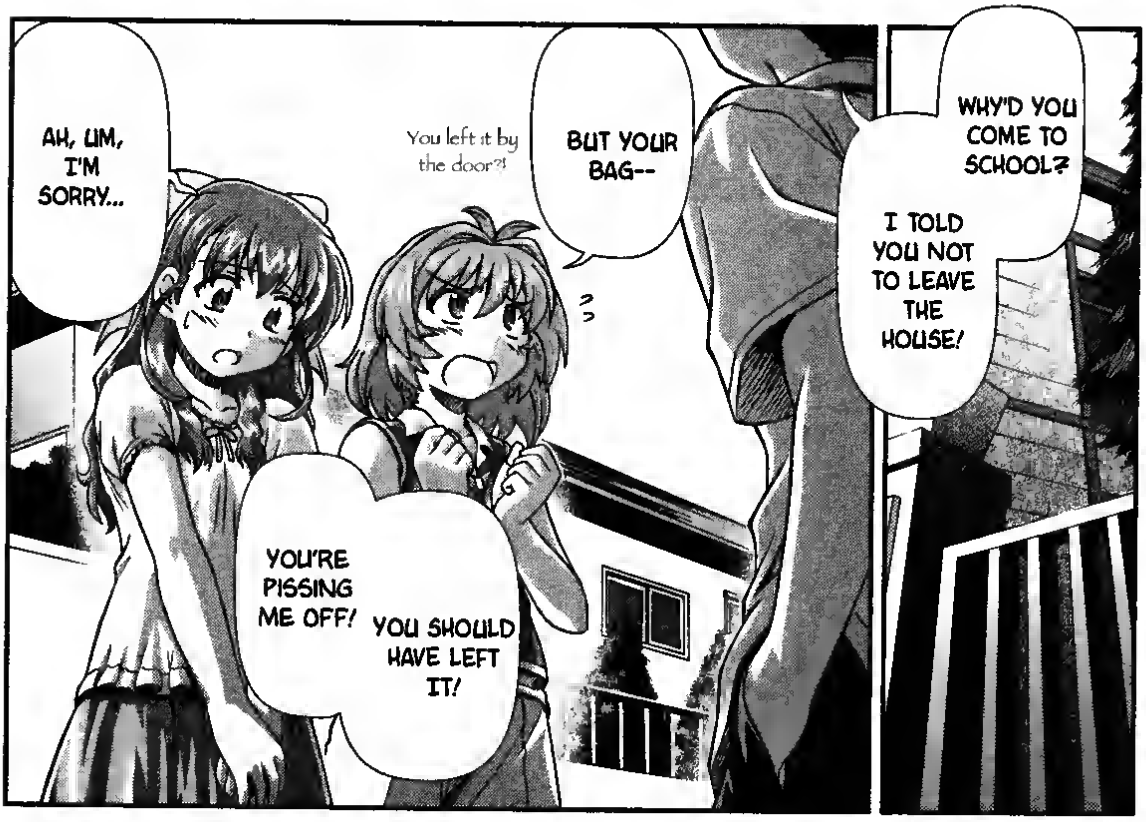
YES.
YOU KNOW IT'S A VIOLATION OF SCHOOL RULES TO BRING GUESTS ON THE GROUNDS?
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY AS CLASS PRESIDENT.
AND MINE AS VICE PRESIDENT.
...SO, WHY DID YOU TWO COME?
Particularly you Morino-san?
BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE FUTURE.
WE ARE NOT.
YOU'RE LOVERS, AREN'T YOU?
KAMISHIRO-KUN, WHAT IS YOUR RELATION TO THESE GIRLS?
Is that question from the student council?

DO YOU THINK SO?
MAN, SHE'S SLOW.
WE ARE NOT!
WHY DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, ANYWAY?
GRRR
YOU ARE.
GLARE

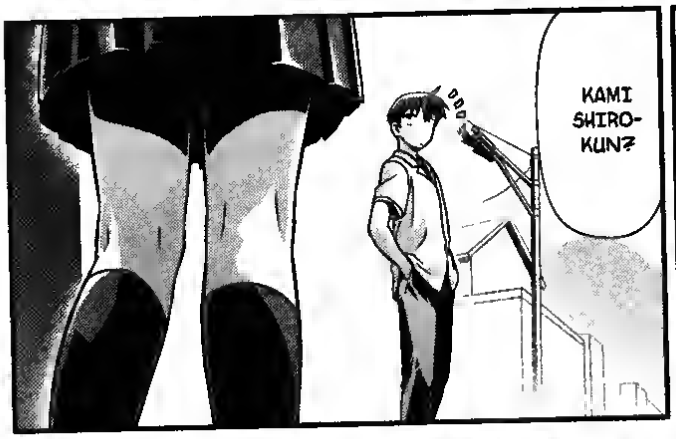

Relatives!?
Distant!?
SO, KAMISHIRO-KUN, WHAT ARE THEY TO YOU?
TH-THEY'RE... DISTANT RELATIVES ...

That's for sure.
That's a lie.
SO, I... THEY HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO BUT ME...
SILENCE
AND THERE WAS TROUBLE, RECENTLY, IN THEIR HOUSE AND...

SO, THAT'S IT.
BESIDES LIVING ALONE, YOU'RE TAKING CARE OF THESE GIRLS.
WHOA, SHE BOUGHT IT...
That's so sweet!
Uh, thanks.
THAT TEACHER'S REALLY INNOCENT.
She's nice!
DO YOU THINK SO?

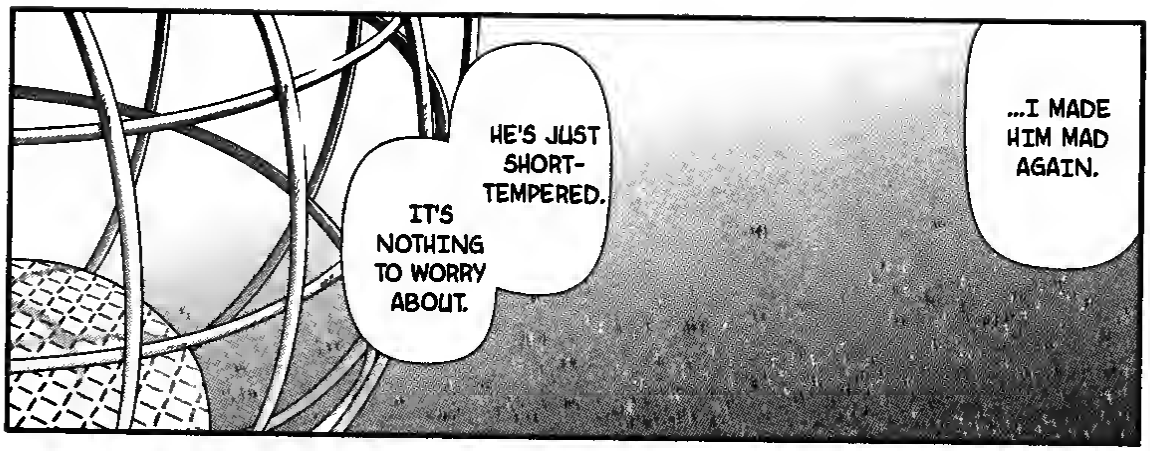

WHY'D YOU COME TO SCHOOL?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE!
BUT YOUR BAG--
You left it by the door?!
AH, UM, I'M SORRY...
YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT IT!
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF!

O-OK.
OK.
LET'S GO.
ALL RIGHT, JUST GO HOME.


KAMI SHIRO-KUN?

ENJOY YOUR LUNCH!
I HATE SQUASH!
Just hurry home.

SEMPAI...


...I MADE HIM MAD AGAIN.
HE'S JUST SHORT-TEMPERED.
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

NO, I THINK ANYONE WOULD BE ANGRY.
HE WAS GETTING ALONG FINE.
THEN WE NOBODIES BUTTED INTO HIS LIFE...

WE'RE NOT NOBOD-IES!
WE MIGHT BE RELATED TO MAIKU.
BUT WE MIGHT NOT BE.
AT LEAST, ONE OF US ISN'T...

DO YOU REGRET MEETING MAIKU?
IS HE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
BUT...
...
BUT... YOU HAD A REASON FOR COMING HERE.

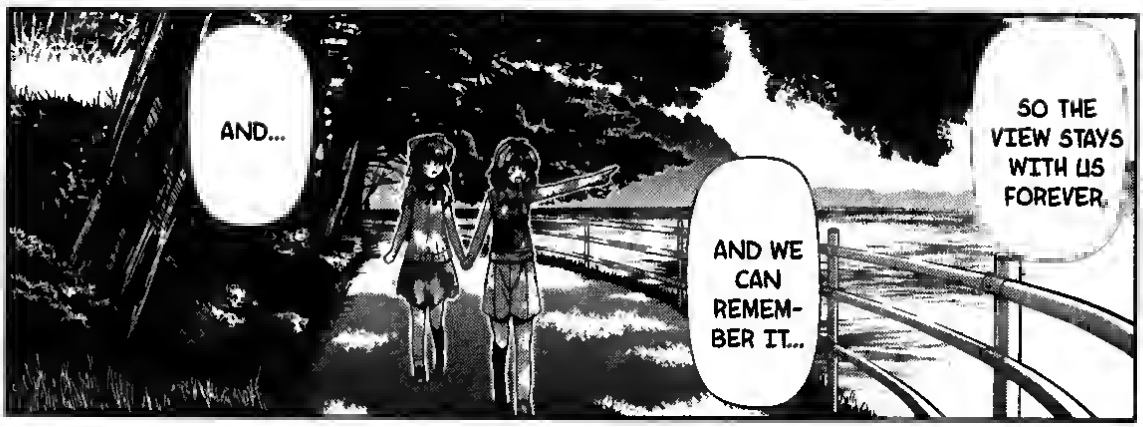
EVEN WHEN IT'S LIKE THIS?
YOU WANTED TO BE HERE?
YES.
YEAH, I KNOW.
BUT...
EVEN WITH A REASON, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I UNDERSTAND THAT.

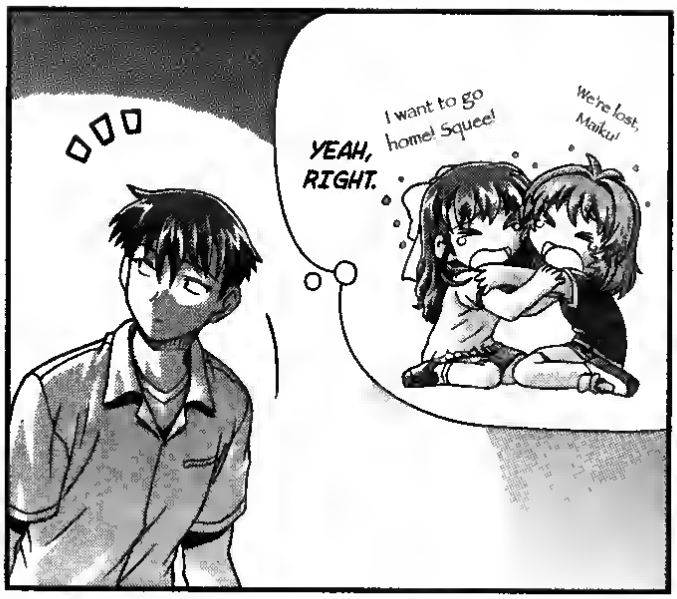
MIINA-SAN...
BUT IF I THINK OF MAIKU AS A RELATIVE,
I FEEL BETTER.
WELL, DOESN'T MATTER.
THEY'RE NOT BACK YET...
Is your twin sister?
What? One of those
...

I'm not being deceived or tricked or anything.
Are you really related? They're not tricking you?
It's possible
I'll handle this.
So don't tell anyone about it
A-all right...
カ
KLIK
タ
I WONDER WHERE THEY WANDERED OFF TO.
YA KNOW... I WONDER IF MOM WALKED AROUND HERE, TOO.

YEAH, WE SHOULD TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT,
BUT IT SURE IS PRETTY HERE.

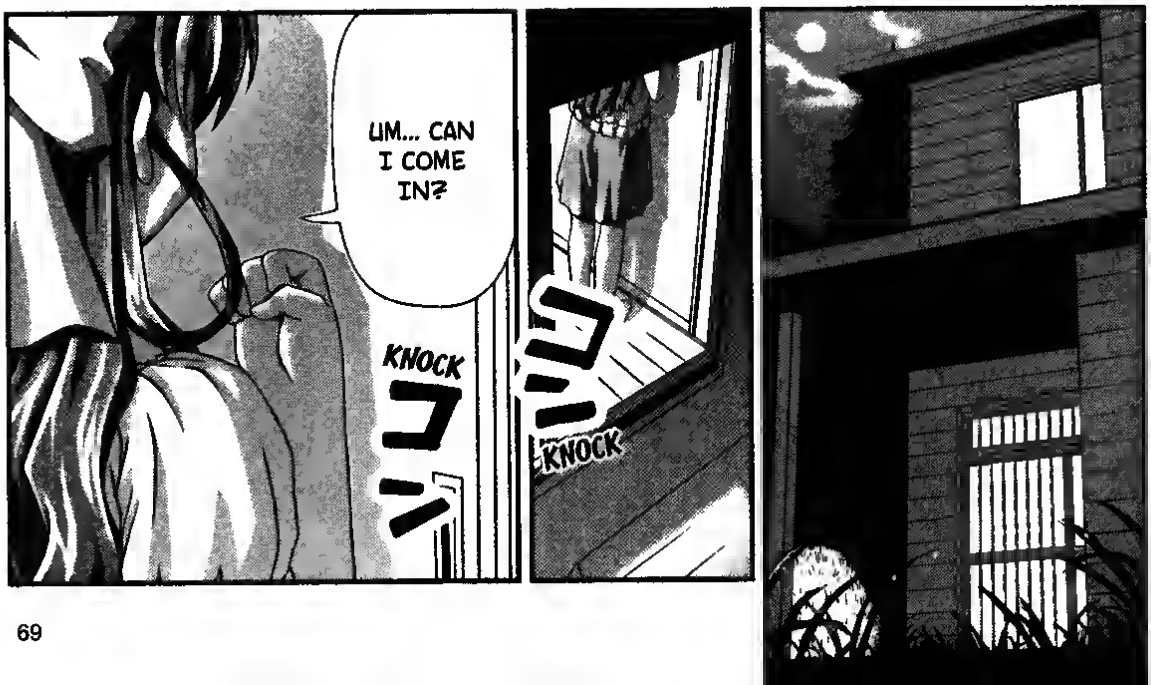

AND...
AND WE CAN REMEMBER IT...
SO THE VIEW STAYS WITH US FOREVER.

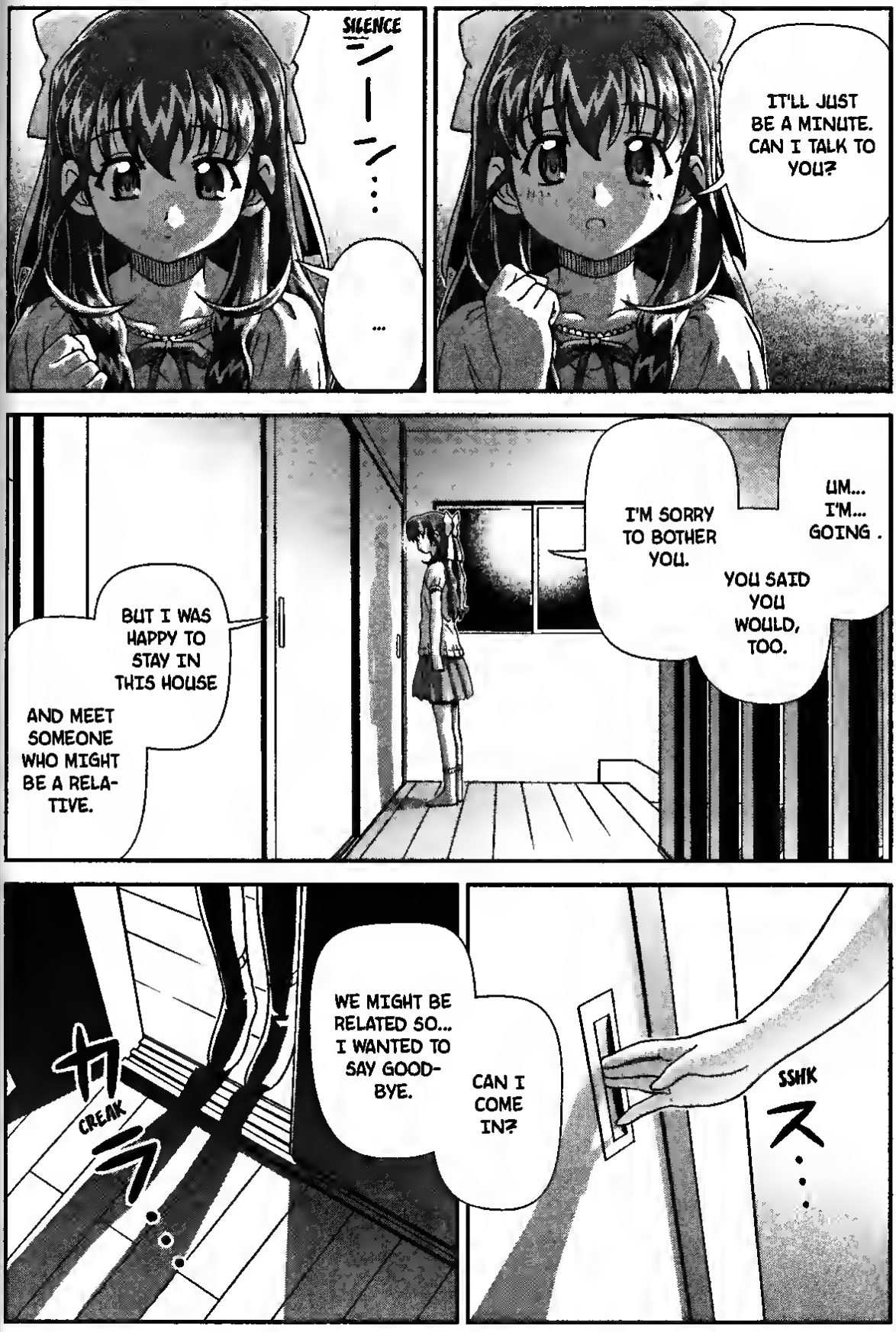

YEAH, RIGHT.
I want to go home! Squee!
We're lost, Maiku!

THEIR BAGS ARE STILL HERE, SO WHERE...

KSSH
You're mean, Maiku!
SNIFF SNIFF
I'm so cold...

KSSH-SSH SHH SHH SH


UM... CAN I COME IN?
KNOCK
KNOCK


SILENCE
シーン…
...
IT'LL JUST BE A MINUTE. CAN I TALK TO YOU?
UM... I'M... GOING .
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD, TOO.
BUT I WAS HAPPY TO STAY IN THIS HOUSE
AND MEET SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE A RELATIVE.
CREAK
カラ
WE MIGHT BE RELATED SO... I WANTED TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
CAN I COME IN?
SSHK
ス…

GASP
STEP
STEP

SORRY...
I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT GOOD-BYES.

WHAT? YOU LEAVIN'?
SCREECH
...?
VROOM
MIINA-SAN!
VROOM
I'M SORRY FOR MAK-ING YOU LET ME STAY.
BUT I JUST WANTED TO...
TRUST SOMEONE, JUST A LITTLE.
SO...
YOU ARRIVE WITHOUT A WORD, DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE, AND NOW YOU'RE JUST LEAVING?
THAT'S AWFULLY SELFISH.
AH...

I DON'T KNOW WHY MY MOM LEFT ME.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT AS A KID.
I WANTED TO KNOW THE REASON.
BUT NOW IT'S NOT SO IMPORTANT.
...
EVEN IF I KNEW, IT WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T YOU GET IT?
NO, I DON'T!!

IT'S WHAT YOU DO NOW THAT MATTERS.
IF WE *ARE* RELATED,
I DON'T WANT TO ABANDON YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO IGNORE A RELATIVE.

THERE'S A CHANCE YOU ARE.
EVEN THOUGH I MIGHT NOT BE ONE?

SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ…
REALLY?
I'M NOT SAYING IT AGAIN.

IT'S ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.

YOU MIGHT BE RELATED TO ME.
You're not nobody.
SAME GOES FOR YOU.
YES?
ANYWAY, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.
THAT NASTY SQUASH LUNCH DIDN'T TIDE ME OVER.
VROOOOM
HUH?
...
AND HE CAME LOOKING FOR US...
I saw the empty lunch box.
HE ATE IT ALL!
WHAT WAS THAT?

WHY I SHOULDA...
TRYIN' TO BE A HERO LIKE THAT...
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ABOUT HIM BEING SCARY.
I SEE NOW HE'S A GOOD PERSON BENEATH THAT ROUGH EXTERIOR.
COMING!
HEY! HURRY IT UP!
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
DON'T PISS ME OFF!
OK!
LET'S MAKE SOME-THING WITH SQUASH!
YOU CAN HELP, KAREN!

CHAPTER 4
THANKS TO THAT POSSIBILITY, MIINA AND I...
CAME TO SHARE THE EMPTY ROOM ACROSS THE HALL FROM MAIKU'S.
WE MIGHT BE RELATED ...

MAIKU IS UP WORKING EARLY, EVEN ON A SUNDAY.
I HEAR THE QUIET SOUND OF TYPING ON A KEYBOARD.
WAKING UP IN THE NEW FUTON WE JUST BOUGHT,

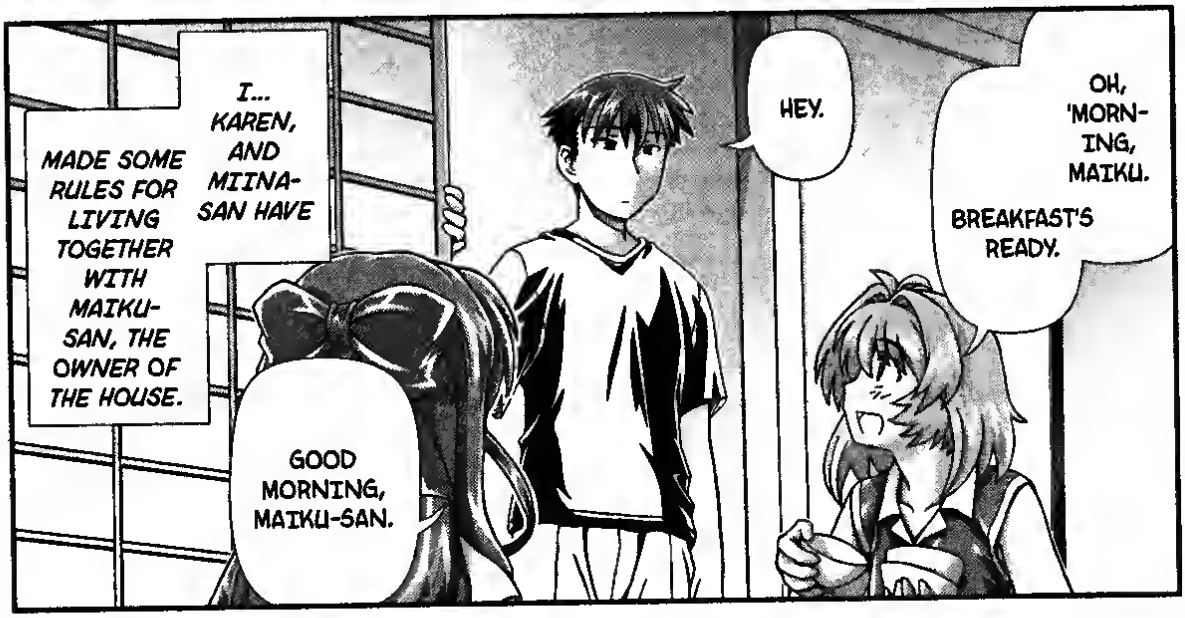
I'VE GOTTA WORK HARDER, TOO. WITH THIS FRESH START.
WHEN I OPEN MY EYES, THE UNFAMILIAR CEILING BRINGS ME BACK TO REALITY...
... CEILING?

MAIKU... DON'T...
MM...
SQUEEE?

# CHAPTER 4

COME ON, KAREN!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I WAS STILL GROGGY... I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!

I SAID I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...
PLEASE DON'T DO ANY-THING MORE.
I'LL WORK TO TAKE MY MIND OFF IT.


I... KAREN, AND MIINA-SAN HAVE
MADE SOME RULES FOR LIVING TOGETHER WITH MAIKU-SAN, THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE.
GOOD MORNING, MAIKU-SAN.
HEY.
OH, 'MORN-ING, MAIKU.
BREAKFAST'S READY.

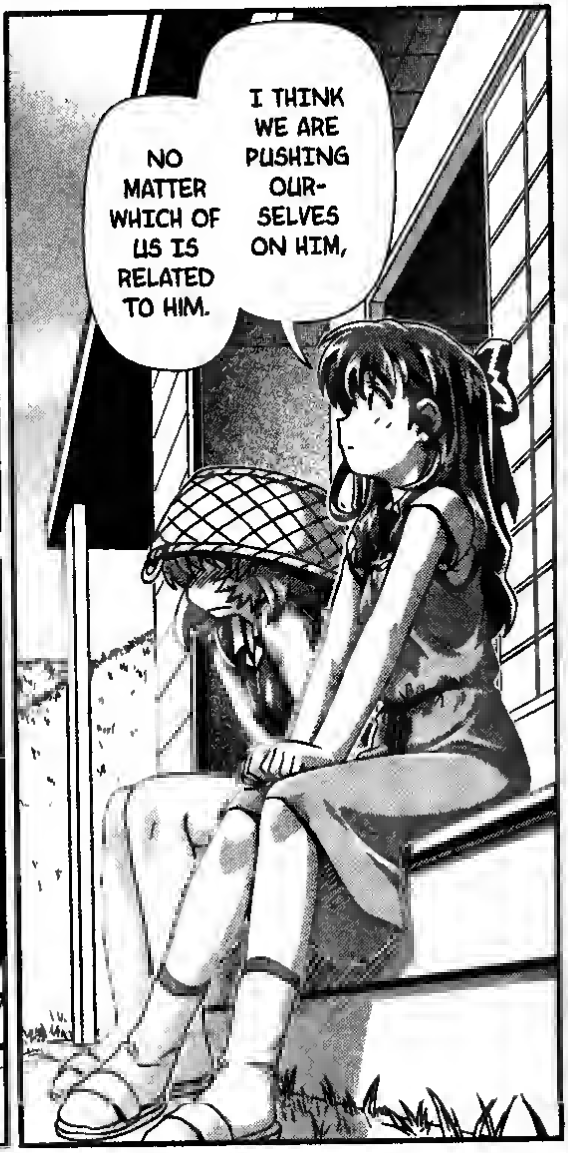
I'D... PREFER YOU NOT ASK...
KAREN, WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR NECK?

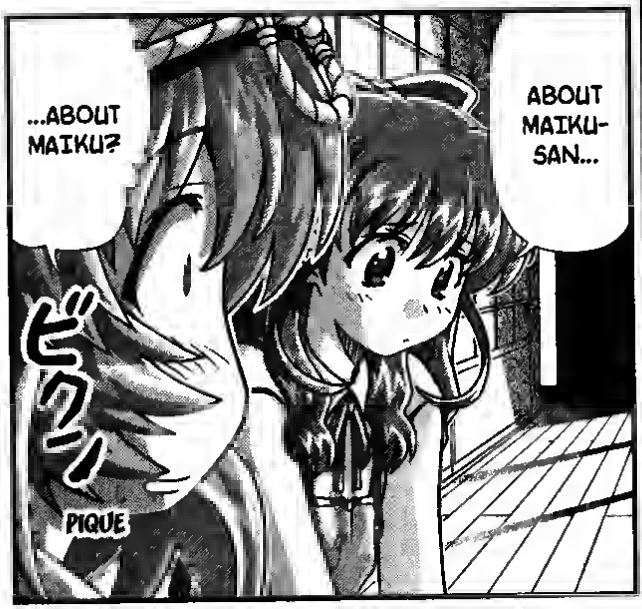
DIDN'T WE SAY WE WERE GOING TO DROP THE -SAN?
IT WAS MAIKU-SAN'S SUGGES-TION, BUT I'M STILL NOT USED TO IT.

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
BESIDES ...
MAIKU-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO PAID FOR OUR FUTON AND LIVING EXPENSES..
CLICK
OH...
I'LL GET IT.
RING
RING
RING
THE TWO OF US ARE DOING HOUSEWORK TO PAY HIM BACK.
DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE.
AND WE ARE TRYING NOT TO INTERFERE WITH HIS WORK.

AH, HELLO... IS THIS KIKUCHI-SAN?
YES, I'LL SEND IT TODAY.
YES, I KNOW. THE DATA IS...
BUT IT SEEMS HE'S BEHIND BECAUSE OF US.
I FEEL RESPO NSI-BLE.
BLUSH
ドッ ドッ
ドッ ドッ
BLUSH

... MIINA -SAN?
HMM? WHAT?


I THINK WE ARE PUSHING OUR-SELVES ON HIM,
NO MATTER WHICH OF US IS RELATED TO HIM.


ABOUT MAIKU-SAN...
...ABOUT MAIKU?
ビクッ
PIQUE

WHAT DO YOU THINK, MIINA-SAN?
I-I-I DON'T THINK ANY-THING MUCH. JUST THAT HE'S FULL OF HIMSELF.
I MEAN, NOT THAT I HATE HIM OR ANYTHING.
AND HE'S DECENTLY STRONG AND NOT BAD LOOKING.
AND SINCE HE SHOWED UP IN MY DREAM THIS MORNING, I MUST HAVE NOTICED...
BUT IT MIGHT JUST BE TEMPORARY ADMIRA-TION FOR A BOY CLOSE TO ME.
TUK?
TUK?
BUT WE MIGHT BE RELATED TO MAIKU.
THAT'S TRUE!
AND WE WERE RAISED IN ORPHAN-AGES.
AND THE OTHER POSSI-BILITY IS....?
YEAH, WELL, EVEN IN THE DREAM, I WASN'T SURE...
BUT IF MAIKU WEREN'T RELATED...
FIDGET
もじ
FIDGET
THEN, IT'S DECIDED.
I-IS IT?
PULL
ズリ
ミシ
ミシ

WOOZY
IT... SURE IS HOT.
I'M GONNA GET MAIKU SOME-THING TO DRINK.
I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE FOR THAT...
HE MIGHT BE MY BROTHER.
SINK
BUT HE CAN ONLY BE BROTH-ER TO ONE OF US.
IF I'M NOT RELATED, I'D HAVE TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE.
MIINA-SAN IS BATTLING INSECURI-TIES, TOO...
IS KAMI SHIRO-KUN IN?
HELLO, THERE.
CLICK

AND I WANTED TO KNOW WHEN TO EXPECT THEM.
THE BUDGET REPORTS I GAVE YOU,
YOU SAID THEY'D BE READY LAST WEEK.
I DON'T MIND WAITING.
COULD YOU WAIT UNTIL MONDAY?
I'M SORRY. I WAS BUSY WITH SOME PREVIOUS ENGAGE-MENTS.
BUT...
SERVE GUESTS FIRST!
But I made it just for you
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF.
HERE'S YOUR ICED COFFEE, MAIKU.
THANK YOU!

MIINA MIYAFUJI?
ARE YOU GETTING USED TO LIVING HERE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
OH... I'M ONE YEAR AHEAD OF MAIKU IN SCHOOL. I'M WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
MY NAME IS TSUBAKI ORIBE
THE STUDENT COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK IS IMPRESSIVE.
OUR SOURCES ARE SECRET, THOUGH.
BUT THEY'RE PROBABLY SPYING ON US AS WE SPEAK.
UM...
STARE
じ～っ
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE THAT CLOSE.

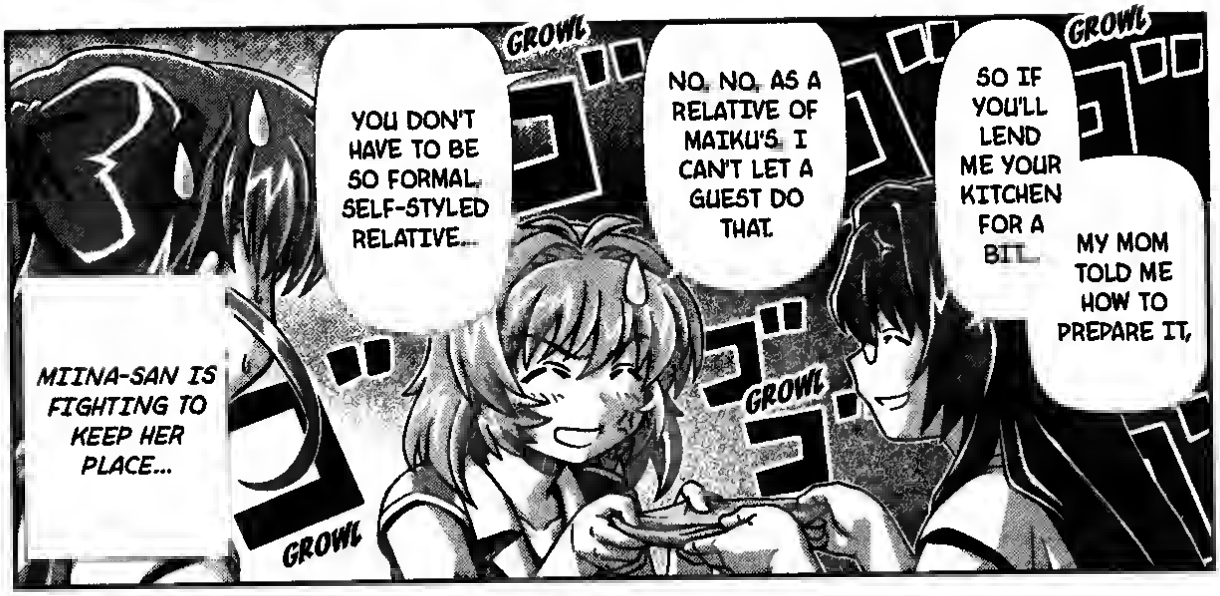
WHO WANTS DRINKS?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.
Tasty.
WELL, YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU CAME TO DO.
AND MAIKU HAS WORK TO DO...
THAT'S TRUE
IT'S THE ONE I WAS BORN WITH.
GROWL
MIINA-SAN, THAT'S A SCARY FACE.
BUT SINCE YOU'VE GONE TO THE TROUBLE...
What's up? That's an interesting face.
PLEASE, DON'T ASK.
SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOUR NECK?
PIQUE

WE'RE POOR.
NO, JUST TAP.
YUP YUP
THIS IS DELICIOUS. IS IT MINERAL WATER?
KAMI SHIRO-KUN,
SOB
ONLY BECAUSE I'M LOOKING AFTER YOU TWO.
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE RELATED TO YOU.
AH, UM...
THEY'RE ALREADY OPEN, BUT WOULD ANYONE LIKE SOME SNACKS?
PRETZ
むかっ
ANNOYED
THOUGH I GUESS "MIGHT" IS THE KEY WORD...

...
NOO!
NO.
NO.
COME ON
COME ON
PRECH
LITTLE WONDER!
WHAT A CUTIE!
OH, MY...
CRUNCH
ぽり
CRUNCH
ぽり
ぽり
CRUNCH
THE SAME? YOU DON'T MEAN...
Oh yeah today would be day three
IT'S THE SAME HALLUCINATION I HAD THAT TIME I DIDN'T SLEEP FOR THREE DAYS

EVERY-ONE AT SCHOOL CALLS HER MARIE.
MARIE-SAN?
EVERY-ONE CAN SEE IT?!
KAMI SHIRO-KUN, DON'T YOU KNOW? SHE SHOWS UP AROUND HERE A LOT.
THAT'S TRUE.
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM A PLACE THAT WAS ON THE NEWS FOR RUMORED UFOS.
DON'T ACCEPT IT SO EASI-LY!
NO?
OH! SHE ANSWERED TO HER NAME!
BUT IT'S YEL-LOW!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
CRAP! MY WORK!
THAT THING'S WEIRD...
IT'S YEL-LOW...

DON'T INTERRUPT ME, PINK AND GREEN.
WELL, I'M GOING BACK TO WORK.
GREEN!?
PINK!?
STOOOP
DON'T WAVE AT ME, YELLOW!
WAVE WAVE
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
MY MOM HAD ME BRING SOME SOBA NOODLES.
SINCE I WAS COMING TO KAMISHIRO-KUN'S HOUSE,
SLIDE
OH, YEAH, I FORGOT.
ARE YOU STAYING, SEMPAI?
BY THE WAY...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THEN WE'LL SEE YOU...


MIINA-SAN IS FIGHTING TO KEEP HER PLACE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL, SELF-STYLED RELATIVE...
NO, NO, AS A RELATIVE OF MAIKU'S, I CAN'T LET A GUEST DO THAT.
SO IF YOU'LL LEND ME YOUR KITCHEN FOR A BIT...
MY MOM TOLD ME HOW TO PREPARE IT,
GROWL
GROWL
GROWL

HELLO, THIS IS KAMI SHIRO.
YES!
EVERY-THING'S GOING WRONG TODAY.
RING
RING
OH, MAN, I'VE ONLY GOT ONE HOUR.

WHAT?
AH, THAT'S...
ARE YOU...?

IS THAT YOU, MORINO-SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CRUNCH
WANT TO TAKE A LOOK?
SO... WHAT ARE YOU REALLY DOING?
HMM...
BIRD WATCH-ING.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
...OH MY.

THIS IS POINT-LESS.
SO, HOW ABOUT WE SPLIT THE NOODLES IN HALF?
OK, I'LL COOK THE NOODLES FOR MAIKU.
AND MIYAFUJI-SAN, YOU CAN COOK SOME FOR YOU AND ONODERA-SAN.
I'LL MAKE THE ONES FOR MAIKU.
ギス
STRAIN
I'D LIKE TO MAKE NOODLES FOR MAIKU, TOO...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I DON'T COOK WELL?!
ギス
STRAIN
DON'T GET MAD...
YOU SOUND JEALOUS.
ギス
STRAIN
EVEN IF I AM, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
ギス
STRAIN
THE ATMOS-PHERE IN HERE IS SO TENSE.
SLINK
AH... UM...

EEEK
びっくっ
WHAT...?
GROWL
ドオオ
SQU...
SQUE...
SQUEEE
...
QUIVER
ぶる
QUIVER
ぶる
QUIVER
ぶる
SCRATC
キリリリ!!

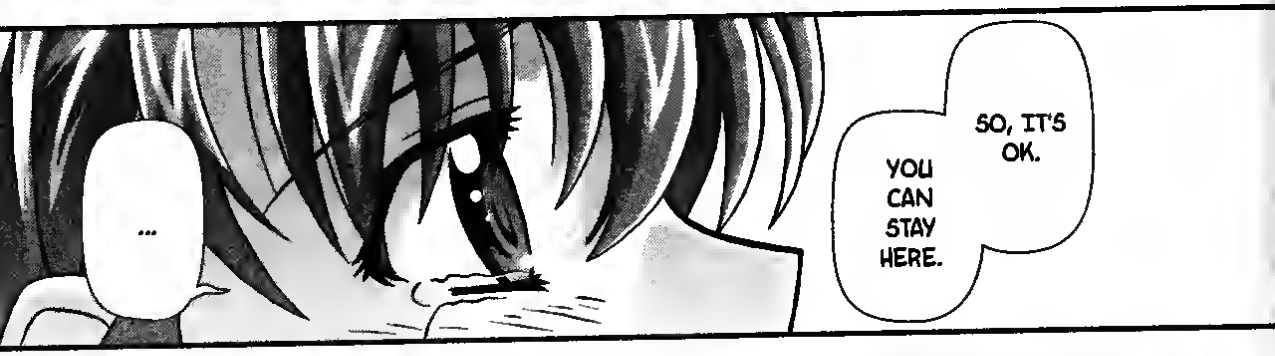
OH, SURE, COME RIGHT IN.
KNOCK
KNOCK
UM... IT'S KAREN
CAN I COME IN?
BEEP
OK.
SLIP
SLIP
SLIP
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT. HAVE A SEAT.
KAREN, DID YOU...
GIVE THIS NUMBER TO YOUR PARENTS?
YES. YESTERDAY I CALLED ON A PAY PHONE.
THEY CALLED
UM... YOUR SEMPAI AND MIINA-SAN ARE...
COOKING IN A VERY SCARY WAY.
THEIR AURAS LOOKED LIKE A LION AND A TIGER.
CALM DOWN.
SIDE
すぅるぅ...

IT WAS FROM MY UNCLE?
HE WANTED TO TALK TO ME, SO I DID...
I DIDN'T HEAR THE SPECIFICS, BUT...
YOUR UNCLE'S COMPANY IS IN TROUBLE?
THE ECONOMY'S ROUGH.
BUT I FOUND OUT WHY, WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO A GIRLS' SCHOOL,
THAT'S FOR SURE...
YOU WOULD COME HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TERM...
AND...
YOUR UNCLE TOLD ME SOME-THING HE HASN'T TOLD YOU.
HE'S BEEN WORKING HARD TO KEEP THE COMPANY GOING,
AND THAT HE SENT YOU HERE BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A BURDEN TO YOU AT HOME.

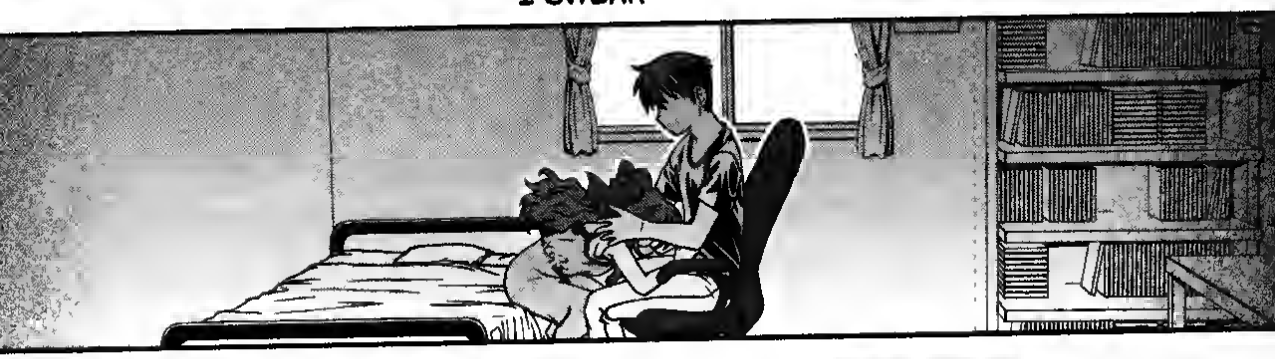
BUT HE SUDDENLY LET ME GO...
...SO THAT'S WHY...
I GRADUALLY... FIGURED THAT OUT.
HE'D ALWAYS TOLD ME IT WAS DANGEROUS TO TRAVEL ALONE, AND WOULDN'T LET ME COME
BECAUSE I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
"I'M LEAVING... LOOK AFTER KAREN... I'LL DO WHAT I CAN..."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID TO ME.
SQUEEZE
MAIKU-SAN, MY UNCLE IS..
DON"T WORRY. I TOLD HIM IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
BUT... HE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CALL AGAIN, HE SAID.

SNIFF
SNIFF
RUB
HE ALSO SAID SORRY.
SOB SOB
UNCLE ...
UNCLE ...
ポン
PAT
IS YOUR UNCLE NICE?
...
SNIFF
コクン
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT IT'LL BE OK.
YOU CAN STAY HERE.
IT'S OK.
BUT, MAIKU-SAN...
WE MIGHT NOT BE RELATED.

I WON'T ABANDON YOU...

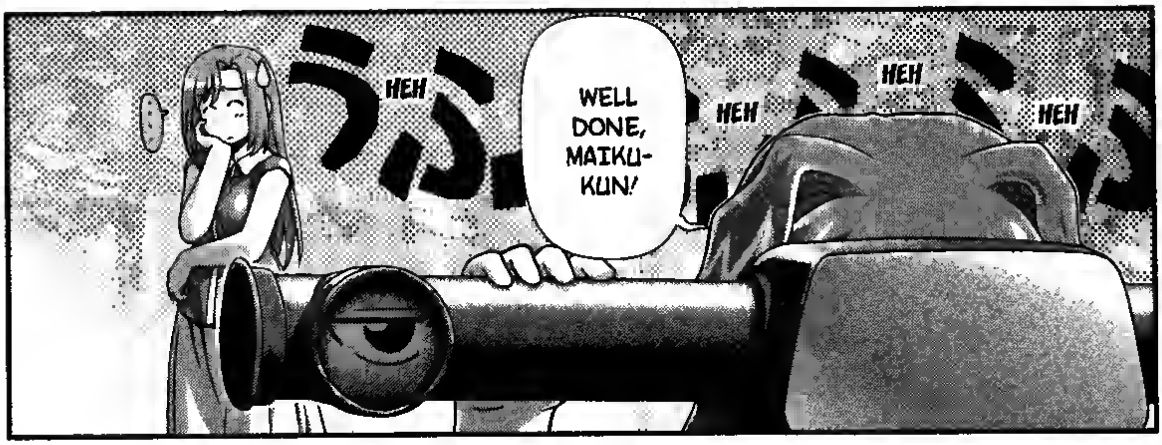



I SWEAR



I TOLD YOU. THAT HICKEY ON KAREN'S NECK WAS FROM ME.
I WAS STILL ASLEEP...
I won't take that the wrong way
HEE-HEE, SO THAT'S IT.
I WONDERED HOW SUCH A QUIET GIRL WOULD...
This is Maiku's room!
I was a bit worried
Okay, lets go in together
INPUT FOR SNEAK SEARCH: THE GIRL CALLED KAREN IS UNTOUCHED.
I JUST NEED TO CHECK THIS MIINA GIRL.

MAIKU-KUN, THE SOBA'S DONE!
Are you just gonna burst in?
NOW I'M GONNA RACK UP THE POINTS!
GAH


うふふ
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
WELL DONE, MAIKU-KUN!

WHAT ARE YOU READING, MIINA-SAN?
I interrupted Maiku's work today too.
JOB LISTINGS.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MAIKU DO ALL THE WORK.

YOU SURPRISED ME THIS AFTERNOON.
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN *THAT*. IF I THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
O-OF COURSE NOT!

THERE AREN'T MANY JOBS HERE,
SO WE'VE GOTTA SNATCH 'EM UP QUICK.
...OH...

OH!
EEK
SPLASH

MIINA-SAN, MAIKU-SAN MIGHT NOT BE RELATED ...
YEAH... PROBABLY NOT TO ONE OF US.

MAIKU! GIMME THE PHONE!
NO, I HAVEN'T BEEN SLACKING OFF.
SLAM
HI, IS THIS KIKUCHI-SAN? WELL.. IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE SENDING THE DATA TOMORROW.

This is important!
Miina? Where are your clothes!
Are we so poor that you don't have anything to wear?
Just gimme the phone!
You have been wearing the same thing since yu came here!
BUT...
WE MIGHT NOT BE RELATED.

CHAPTER 5

YEAH. YOU CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO WORKS.
YOU WANT JOBS? DO YOU BOTH WANT TO WORK?

I AGREE.
AND WE'RE IN NO POSITION TO LAZE AROUND...
...WE'RE FAMILY.

SHUT UP.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY FRIENDS...
I HARDLY KNOW ANY-ONE.
I JUST CAME HERE TWO MONTHS AGO...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?

I CAN'T GO.
AH-HA-HA.
I'M TOO STUPID.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?
MIINA-SAN, DID YOU QUIT SCHOOL BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL?
I-I... WELL...
I MEANT TO GO... BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
OH, BUT LOOK, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL, MAIKU.
OH, YEAH.

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB?
YEAH...
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME TO ASK ME.
SHIMAZAKI-KUN AND KAMISHIRO-KUN, THE TOP TWO FIRST YEARS...
THEY LOOK SO GOOD TOGE-THER.
I BET MAIKU DOESN'T WEAR THE PANTS IN THE RELATION-SHIP,
THAT'S FOR SURE

HE'S AT IT AGAIN...
I have my own, thanks!
Want these?
MY LITTLE SISTER IS CLIMBING THE STAIRWAY TO ADULTHOOD.
MY... MY HARUKO IS...
Haruko doesn't get it!
A PART-TIME JOB...?
BUT THAT'S STRANGE...
WHY'S THAT?
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
WELL, YOU ALREADY HAVE WORK AS A PROGRAMMER...
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!

SOMETHING A GIRL COULD DO.
SO, WHAT KIND OF JOB WERE YOU HOPING FOR?

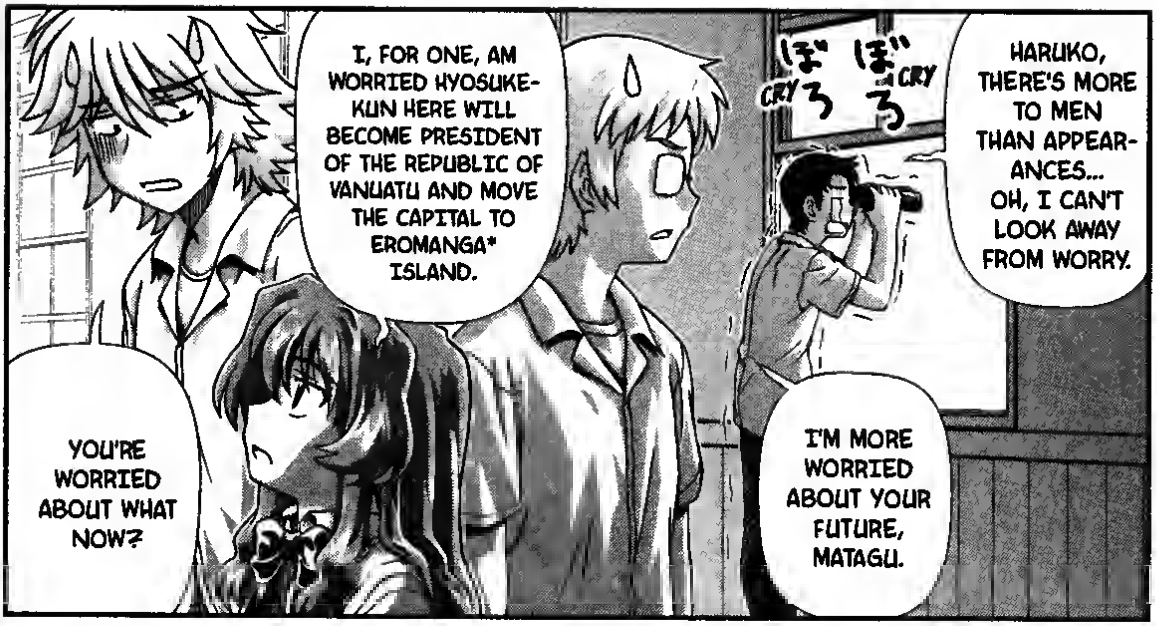
I'LL HIT YOU.
MY HEAD'S ALREADY THROBBING.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
OH, FOR THE GIRLS WHO ARE LIVING AT YOUR HOUSE?

I TOLD YOU...
I KNOW EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU

HM?
MY HEAD'S ALREADY ...
MAIKU-KUN.
I'LL HIT YOU.

IF YOU NEED MONEY, I CAN HELP YOU IF YOU'LL GO OUT WITH ME ONE NIGHT...
CARESS
SO HOW 'BOUT THOSE JOB IDEAS?
SORRY... MY HEAD IS SPINNING AND I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE.
AWW, THE PERFECT COUPLE IS FLIRTING!
BUT MAIKU DOESN'T QUITE WORK AS THE DOMINANT ONE.
HARUKO ...


I, FOR ONE, AM WORRIED HYOSUKE-KUN HERE WILL BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU AND MOVE THE CAPITAL TO EROMANGA* ISLAND.
HARUKO, THERE'S MORE TO MEN THAN APPEAR-ANCES... OH, I CAN'T LOOK AWAY FROM WORRY.
CRY
CRY
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT NOW?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, MATAGU.

*ERROMANGG SOURDS LIKE "EROTIC COMICS" IR JAPANESE.

I LOOK EIGHTEEN IN THIS, DON'T I?
THAT'S WHY WE DRESSED TO LOOK OLDER?
WELL, YES...
YOU SEEM PROUD OF YOUR PADDED BRA...
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT EXCITED ABOUT THIS,
BUT IF WE DON'T GET MONEY, IT'LL BE HARD FOR MAIKU.
WE'RE DOING IT FOR MAIKU!
FOR MAIKU...?

SOB
THANKS FOR CHASING OFF THAT PUSHY SEMPAI.
I'M GLAD I CAN SPEND TIME WITH YOU AT SCHOOL, KAREN.
I DID IT FOR YOU, MAIKU.
SO AM I.
SIGH

I'LL DO IT, MIINA-SAN!
ALL RIGHT! ME, TOO!

A PART-TIME JOB?
生徒会室
STUDENT COUNCIL
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY-THING?
LIKE HELP-ING WITH STUDENT COUNCIL WORK?
THE BUDGET OUR VICE-PRESIDENT ASKED YOU TO DO WAS VERY CLEAR AND WELL-DONE.
BUT WASN'T THE PAY FOR THAT ONE WEEK OF LUNCHES?
GLARE
MY LUNCHES ARE MADE AT HOME.
SNIFF
I HAVE ANOTHER SUGGES-TION.
PLEASE TELL ME IF YOU KNOW OF ANY JOBS.

I TEND TO GOSSIP.
PLEASE DON'T LET THIS GET OUT.
WELL, YES, IT IS.
IT'S FOR THE GIRLS WHO LIVE IN YOUR HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
REALLY?!
THAT'S TOO BAD. I WAS GOING TO RECOM-MEND YOU TO SOME-ONE.
HEH
...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.
SO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP OUT IN HER PLACE.
BUT SHE'LL BE TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS THIS YEAR.
A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE WORKS IN HER FAMILY'S STORE.

I'LL GO NOW.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
SHE SHOULD BE IN THE MAN-POWERED PLANE ROOM.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU SHOULD HURRY. IT'S A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT CALLED HERIKAWA.
"MADE AT HOME"... HUH?
CRINKLE
CRINKLE
HE'S CHANGED.
...
GLANCE
I'M GOING OUT FOR A MINUTE.
HAVE FUN.
SIP
MAYBE BECAUSE OF THOSE GIRLS HE MIGHT BE RELATED TO.
CRUNCH
...

カタ
SHAKE
カタ
SHAKE
I FEEL NERVOUS.
カタ
QUIVER

QUIVER
I'M AFRAID BECAUSE THEY'RE PERFECTLY FAKE.
QUIVER
WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR...
OUR CLOTHES AND RESUMES ARE PERFECT.
QUIVER

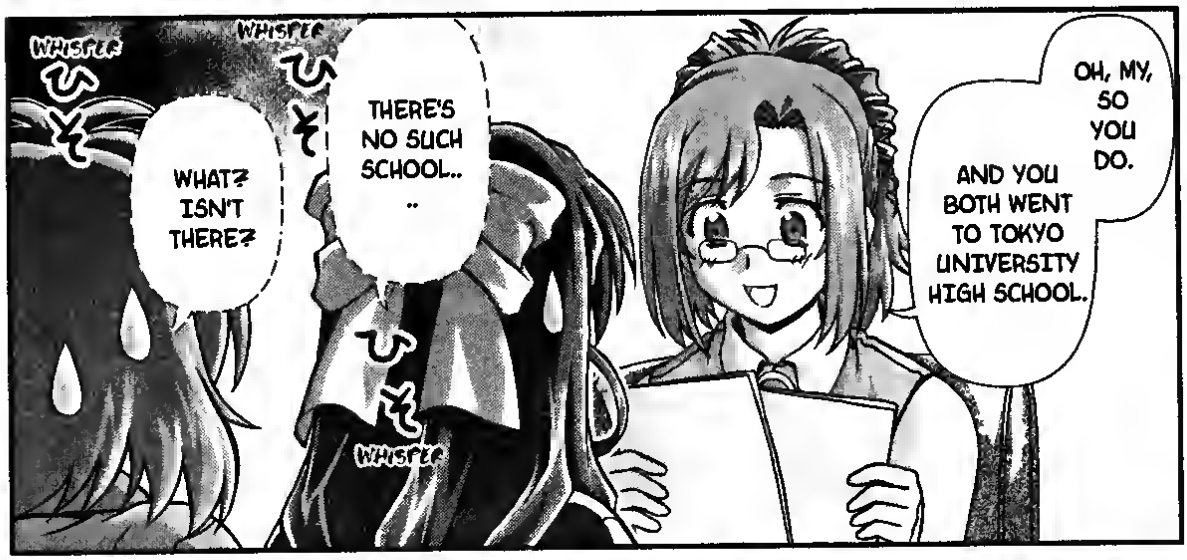
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
Please calm down.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.

GASP
GASP
GASP
I DON'T THINK THAT COMES UNTIL WE'VE BEEN HIRED AND WORKED FOR A PAY PERIOD...
SOON, WE'LL GET PAID.
JUST HOLD OUT A BIT LONGER.

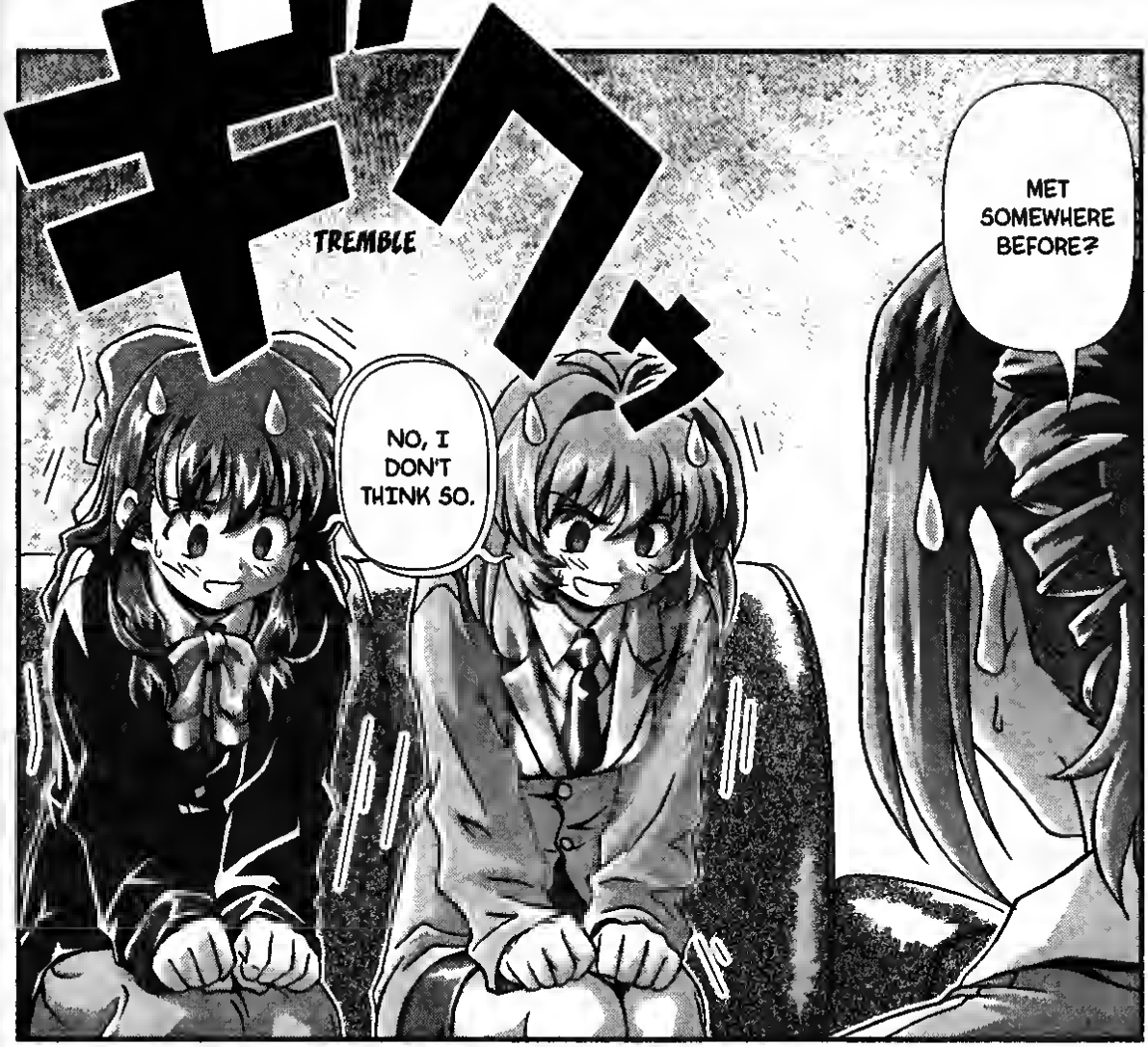
SO I'LL BE INTER-VIEWING YOU IN HER PLACE.
MY NAME IS KAZAMI,
I'M A TEACHER HERE.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
CREAAAAK
SQUEAK
THE PERSON YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET IS SICK.
UM... IS SOME-THING WRONG?
NO, NOTHING AT ALL.

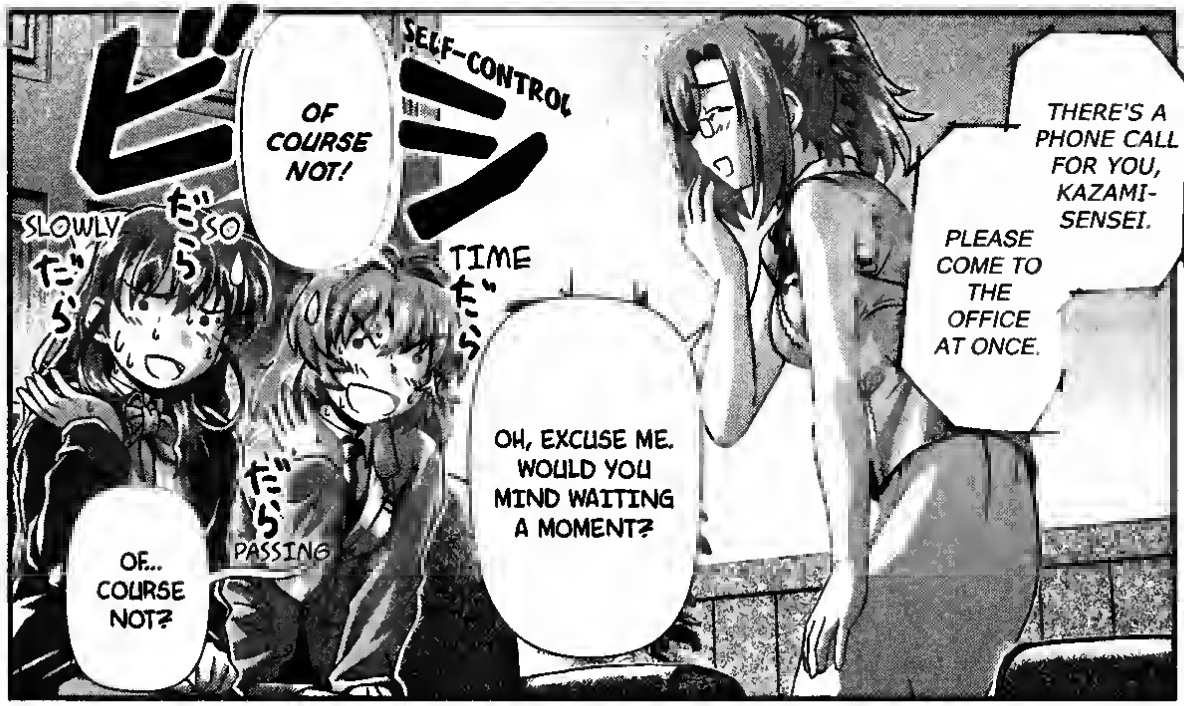
MY PADDED CHEST HAS NOTHING ON HER REAL ONE...
NO, NOT THAT.
YOU WERE APPLYING TO BE OFFICE CLERKS?
I looked over your resumes
THIS IS BAD.
WHISPER
THAT'S FOR SURE.
WHISPER
WHISPER
THIS LADY IS MAIKU'S TEACHER.
WHISPER
OH, WE'VE MET HER BEFORE.
WHISPER
WHICH MEANS...
WE'RE DONE FOR.
SIGH

WE HAVE THE SAME COLOR EYES.
びくっ GULP
YES, WE'RE TWINS.
YOU HAVE THE SAME LAST NAME?
YOUR NAMES ARE... KIKUKO INOUE AND YAYOI INOUE...


WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT? ISN'T THERE?
THERE'S NO SUCH SCHOOL... ..
OH, MY, SO YOU DO.
AND YOU BOTH WENT TO TOKYO UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE I CAME IN...
HAVE WE...
FLIP
BY THE WAY...


キュッ
TREMBLE
MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.


ビ
SELF-CONTROL
ン
OF COURSE NOT!
SLOWLY だら
SO だら
TIME だら
だら
PASSING
OF... COURSE NOT?
OH, EXCUSE ME. WOULD YOU MIND WAITING A MOMENT?
THERE'S A PHONE CALL FOR YOU, KAZAMI-SENSEI.
PLEASE COME TO THE OFFICE AT ONCE.

OH, SENSEI...
ピクン
PERK
AYABE-SAN? KAMI SHIRO-KUN?
HM?
ほ
PHEW
お。。。
からから。。。
FLATTER
しゃる。。。
SURE. TELL THEM GOOD LUCK.
BUT COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THAT?
I'M SORRY TO ASK OUT OF THE BLUE
NO, THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS...
WHAT MAIKU IS TALKING ABOUT WITH HIS SEMPAI.
こそっ
SNEAK
I WONDER WHAT HE MEANS BY "THAT."
I CAN'T HEAR THEM.

CAN YOU HEAR THEM?
I CAN HARDLY HEAR ANY OF IT.
SO, HOW'D IT GO ASKING ABOUT THE JOB?
GOOD. THEY CAN START TOMORROW.
CONSIDERING YOU JUST MET THEM, AND THEY MIGHT NOT BE FAMILY,
YOU'RE AWFULLY SERIOUS.
BUT THEY MIGHT BE RELATED TO ME.
WHAT?
YOU SHOULD GET A BLOOD TEST DONE TO BE CERTAIN.
A HUNDRED THOUSAND...
ONE OF THEM MIGHT BE...
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE NEITHER ONE IS.

DNA TEST-ING COSTS AT LEAST A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY. BESIDES...
WHAT?

KAMI SHIRO-KUN...
AND NOW I HAVE IT.

I WANTED SOME-THING, SEMPAI...

SOMETHING ABOUT "WANTING" SEMPAI...
YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S *THAT*?

STOP!
MIINA-SAN...
ROAR
IMPURE ACTIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX ARE FORBIDDEN!
SCOOT
IT IS FORBIDDEN, ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN!
WHO'S THERE?
I AM A TEACHER!
I'VE NEVER HEARD YOUR VOICE BEFORE.
SHE TALKS FUNNY.
IT WAS COMING FROM THIS ROOM.
LET'S OPEN IT.
WE'LL HAVE TO REPORT THEM IF THEY'RE TRESPASSING.
...CRAP.
There's coming
OBVIOUS-LY!

WHOOPS.
HOP
...
WHO'S THERE?!
SLAM
SILENCE
WEIRD... I WAS SURE THERE WAS SOMEONE...
FOUND 'EM! THEY WENT OUT THE WIN-DOW!
STEP
STEP

TO CLOSE OFF THE EXITS.
REPORT IT TO THE DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL, AND WORK WITH THE TEACHERS.
BAM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS THAT THEY'D RUN AWAY...
ER, WOULD YOU REALLY GO THAT FAR?
PRESIDENT MORINO... WHEN DID YOU...?
SALUTE
YES, MA'AM!
HM?
HEH
HEH
KAMISHIRO-KUN, YOU SHOULD HELP LOOK FOR THE TRESPASSERS, TOO.
HEH
HEH
HEH
AH, OH...
WE MUST ACT PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY.

ポリポリ…
SCRATCH
...OH?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...
...

APPARENTLY THEY'RE STILL ON THE GROUNDS.
SERIOUSLY? THAT'S NOT GOOD.

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
TRES-PASSERS.
THE EXITS HAVE ALL BEEN SEALED BY ORDER OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

ガラ…
SLIDE
I WONDER IF THEY'LL BRING THE POLICE IN.
...

KAREN, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
I THOUGHT I'D BLEND IN BETTER IN THIS.
I BROUGHT A SET FOR YOU, TOO.
THE WHOLE SCHOOL'S IN AN UPROAR.
DOES YOUR LEG STILL HURT?
OH, NO IT'S FINE.
I JUST PULLED IT BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN EXERCISING.
I'M SORRY... I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET US JOBS.
BUT NOW WE LOOK LIKE CRIMINALS.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. I TOOK THESE CLOTHES, TOO.
YEAH, THAT'S A CRIME.
DON'T SAY THAT, MIINA-SAN.
NOOOON
NOOOON

HERE YOU ARE!
STARTLE
OH, MARIE-SAN,
IT'S YOU!
NOOO
WHOOOOOSH
WHAT?
BUT WE HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE TRESPASSERS YET!
AND I'D RATHER GO. PRESIDENT SORRY. MORINO SAID I COULD GO SINCE I HAVE THE JOB THING.
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP LOOK, KAMISHIRO-KUN?
SIGH...
THE TRESPASSERS DON'T REALLY MATTER ANYMORE...
YEP.
SEE YA.
ARE THOSE GIRLS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

HOW DO I PUT THIS...
SIGH...
DID YOU WANT TO BE OFFICE CLERKS THAT BADLY?
BUT DRESSING UP AND MAKING FAKE RESUMES...
CRUNCH
ポリ
ポリ
CRUNCH
BUT IF HE KNEW WHAT YOU DID,
HE'D BE MAD.
WELL...
UM...
YOU JUST WANTED TO BE NEAR KAMINARI-KUN, RIGHT?
SIGH
BUT HE'D LIKE YOUR INTENTIONS.

AND HE'S BEEN ALONE SINCE HE STARTED SCHOOL HERE.
MAIKU DIDN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS THERE.
HE'D SAY HI TO THEM, BUT NEVER PLAYED WITH THEM.
THE DIRECTOR OF THE ORPHANAGE WHERE MAIKU USED TO LIVE SAID
BUT I UNDER-STAND
THE REASON HE ACTED LIKE THAT WAS OUT OF
KIND-NESS AND RESPON-SIBILITY. INSIDE-OUT.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU AT A DISTANCE.
IT MIGHT BE A RESPONSE TO HAVING BEEN ABAN-DONED...
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ALONE, BUT NOW HE HAS FAMILY.
BUT THEN YOU TWO SHOWED UP.
HE MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

HE'S NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU.

HIS SCOOTER'S HERE.
AND THE LIGHT'S ON. MAIKU. ARE YOU THERE?
RATTLE
RATTLE
THE FRONT DOOR'S LOCKED.

DIDN'T YOU THINK SOMEONE MIGHT BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?
I TOLD THEM ABOUT OUR SITUATION.
YEAH. CASHIERS AT THE HERIKAWA STORE.
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT'S LATE,
I'D BETTER TELL YOU ABOUT THE JOB I FOUND.
WHAT?
FOR US...?
HE TALKS ROUGH, BUT
KAMISHIRO-KUN DID TAKE YOU IN, RIGHT?
YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO GET INTO TROUBLE.
AND YOU BOTH CAN COME TO SCHOOL IN THE DAYTIME.

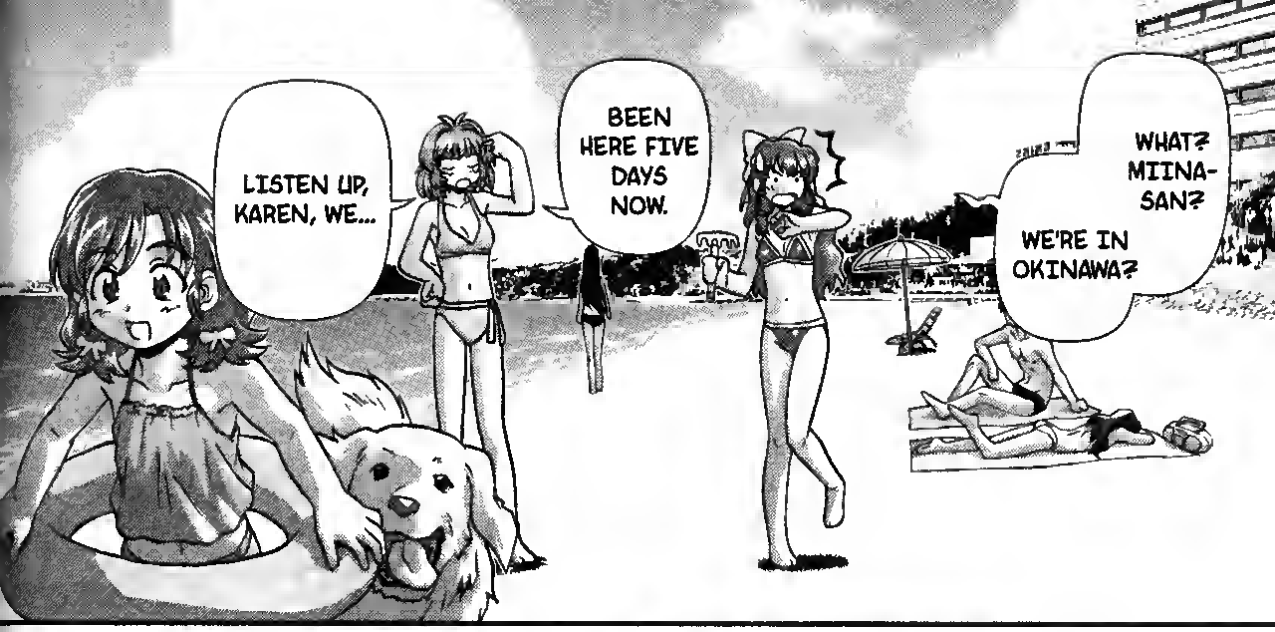
MAIKU, THANKS FOR HELPING.
I'M SORRY WE MADE YOU WORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU WEAR-ING?!
すっ
SLIP
UH... THIS...
THIS IS... WELL...
YOU TWO HAVE OPENED UP A DOOR INSIDE HIM...
WE CAUGHT THIS MAN HIDING IN THE GIRLS LOCKER ROOM.
I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT HARUKO!
SO, YOU WERE THE TRESPASSER.
I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
生徒会
じた
STRUGGLE
ばた
SQUIRM

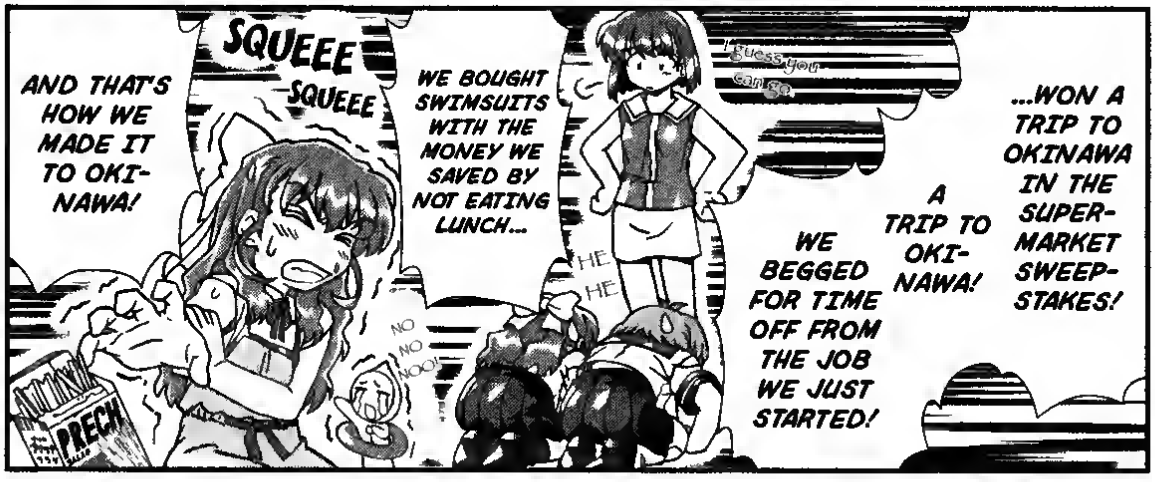
# CHAPTER 6

HELLO, I'M KAREN ONODERA.
RECENTLY, I TOOK AN ENTRANCE EXAM AND STARTED GOING TO MAIKU-SAN'S SCHOOL WITH MIINA-SAN.
I WISH I WERE IN THE SAME CLASS AS MAIKU-SAN, BUT EVERY-ONE IN MY CLASS IS NICE AND I AM ENJOY-ING IT.
I HAVE A LOT TO LEARN, AND IT'S PRETTY TOUGH, BUT MIINA-SAN IS WITH ME, SO IT'S OK.
EVENINGS, I WORK AT THE HERIKAWA STORE.
WITH SCHOOL AND WORK, THERE'S NO TIME FOR MUCH ELSE.
BUT THIS SIMPLE LIFE IS IMPORTANT TO ME.
KAREN ?
HEY, KAREN!
HELLO! KAREN!

WE DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY TO OKINAWA SO YOU COULD SPACE OUT!

CHAPTER 6


LISTEN UP, KAREN, WE...
BEEN HERE FIVE DAYS NOW.
WHAT? MIINA-SAN?
WE'RE IN OKINAWA?

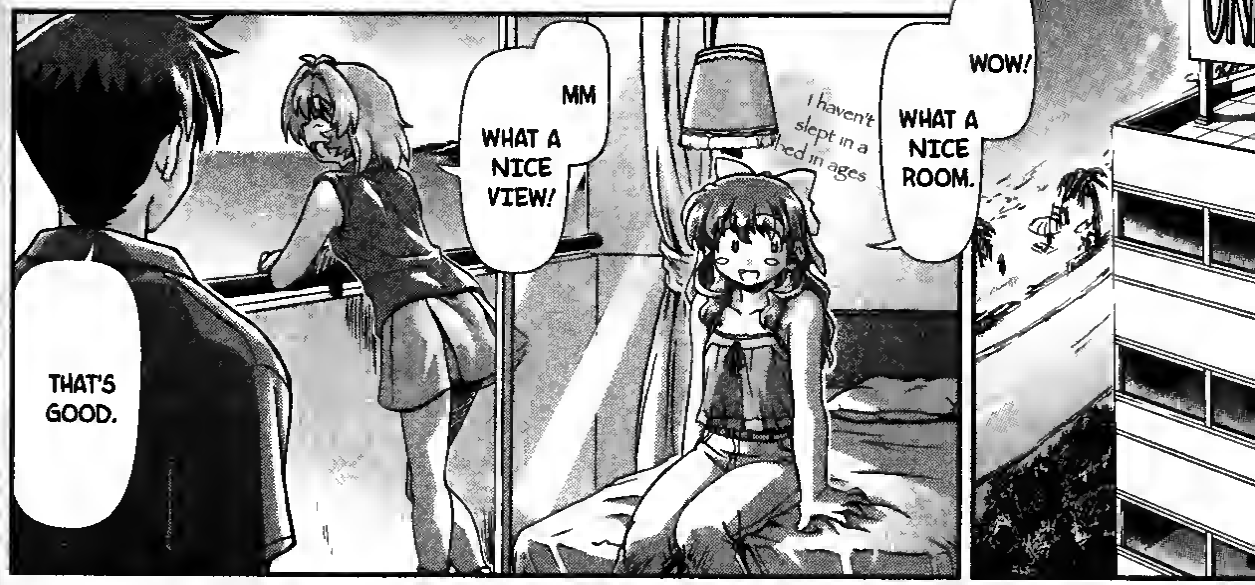

AND THAT'S HOW WE MADE IT TO OKI-NAWA!
SQUEEE
SQUEEE
WE BOUGHT SWIMSUITS WITH THE MONEY WE SAVED BY NOT EATING LUNCH...
I guess you can say
WE BEGGED FOR TIME OFF FROM THE JOB WE JUST STARTED!
A TRIP TO OKI-NAWA!
...WON A TRIP TO OKINAWA IN THE SUPER-MARKET SWEEP-STAKES!
HE HE
NO NO NOO!
PRECH

I-I SEE.
I'LL REGRET IT IF I DON'T TURN THINGS UP A NOTCH HERE!
BLUE SEA, WHITE SAND.
PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND BODIES ARE REVEALED IN THE HOT SUMMER SUN!

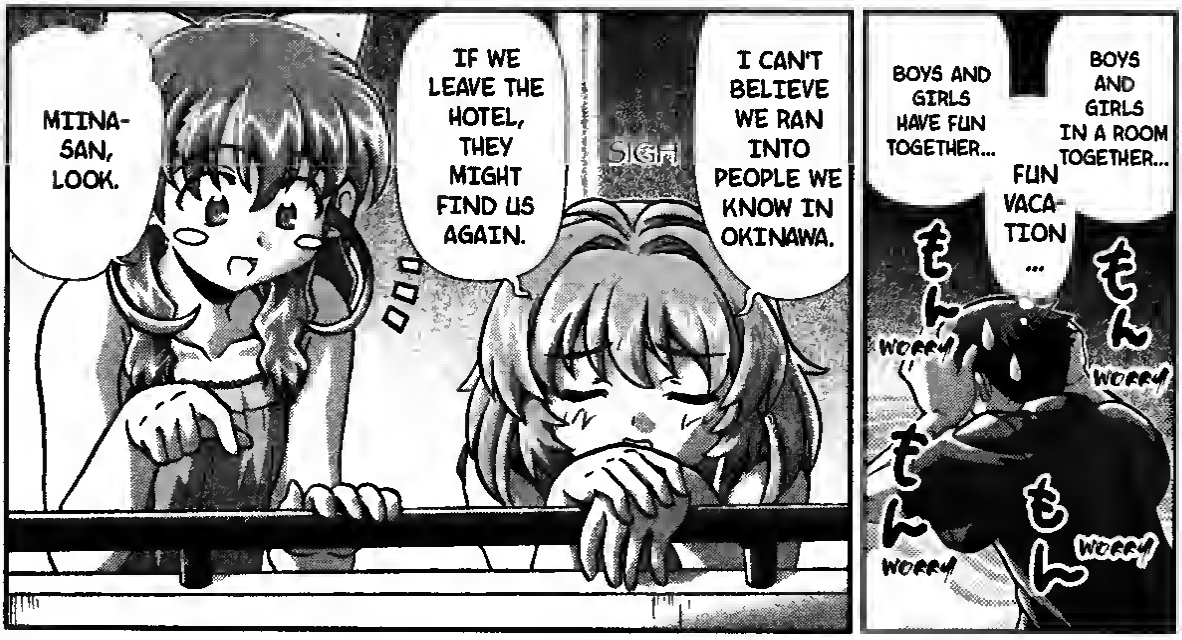
OH!
How cute!
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, WE'LL DO IT WITH MAIKU!
THERE'S NO WORK OR ACQUAINTANCES TO GET IN OUR WAY HERE!
It was worth it to come just to see that lonely expression on Maiku's face
WE'LL KNOCK MAIKU OUT WITH THE SWIMSUITS WE SAVED UP TO BUY!
LET'S MAKE SOME HAPPY SUMMER MEMORIES WITH MAIKU!
SO, NOW I'M GONNA PUMP IT UP!
HEY!
So how much are you gonna stuff it?
SQUEAK

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, MAIKU-KUN.
KOU-SEI...
OKINAWA SURE IS HOT, MAIKU-KUN
IF THERE ARE LEFTOVERS, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PUT THEM TOWARD NEXT YEAR!
THERE WERE FUNDS LEFTOVER, SO THE STUDENT COUNCIL DECIDED TO TAKE A TRIP.
IT'S NO USE, MIINA-SAN.
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST HER BREASTS.
SNIFF
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU'D USE THAT MONEY FOR YOURSELF!

COME ON, MAIKU-KUN.
HEY...
WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU TAKING KAMISHIRO-KUN?!
THAT'S WHAT WE WANNA KNOW!
...
CLICK
IT'S SO GOOD TO BE YOUNG.
HEH HEH HEH!
Wait, what? Okinawa?!
We've been there a lot of times, but...
SPLASH
どぼーん...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.


WOW!
WHAT A NICE ROOM.
I haven't slept in a bed in ages
MM
WHAT A NICE VIEW!
THAT'S GOOD.

ARE WE ALL THREE SHARING A ROOM?
SORRY, I TOLD THEM WE WERE A FAMILY WHEN I MADE THE RESERVATION.
WELL, THIS'LL BE A FUN VACATION MEMORY.


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE RAN INTO PEOPLE WE KNOW IN OKINAWA.
SIGH
IF WE LEAVE THE HOTEL, THEY MIGHT FIND US AGAIN.
MIINA-SAN, LOOK.
BOYS AND GIRLS IN A ROOM TOGETHER...
BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE FUN TOGETHER...
FUN VACATION ...
もん WORRY
もん WORRY
もん WORRY
もん WORRY

THERE'S A POOL IN THE COURTYARD.
WE CAN WEAR OUR SWIMSUITS HERE.
JUST WHAT I EXPECTED FROM A RESORT HOTEL!
SPLASH
ばしゃ
THIS TIME I'LL WOW HIM FOR SURE!
SO, WHERE'S MAIKU?
HE SAID HE'D COME LATER.
Again?
I'll just stuff it!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.

I'M NOT READY...
SQUE
SQUE
The stairs to adulthood
MY FRIEND CLIMBED THE STAIRS TO ADULT-HOOD HERE.
THIS HOTEL IS LEGENDARY FOR BEING ROMANTIC.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
KERSPLASH
SO, I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME AND HARUKO ON THIS TRIP.
I'll catch Maiku's eye.
GLUG
BUT, DON'T WORRY, MY CHEST IS BIGGER THAN HARUKO'S!
GLUG
MINE'S HARD TO TELL.
GURGLE
You're stuffing yours.
GURGLE
THIS CAN'T BE NORMAL!
WHY ARE HARUKO-CHAN AND HER BROTHER HERE?

WHAT A FUNNY COINCI-DENCE. WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME HOTEL.
I JUST MET EVERYONE.
OH. MY.
KAREN-SAN AND MIINA-SAN.
SHE'S BIG-GER...
PLOP
LET'S GO!
SPLASH
Yaaay! It's Miina-Chan and Karen-Chan!
I wont let you get away with it
Don't either of you touch my Haruko
Why don't you try doing them outside?
Even though we're on vaca-tion, we just do the same old things.
YEAH. .. MUST BE.
MIINA-SAN, ARE WE CURSED?
WILL YOU GUYS BE THERE, KAMISHIRO-KUN?
I WAS THINKING WE SHOULD ALL HAVE A BARBECUE TOGETHER TONIGHT.
DO WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE AT EATING DINNER ALONE?
SPENDING VACATION TOGETHER ARE RUINED.
OUR HOPES FOR THE THREE OF US

SURE, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
GLUG
ごぼ
...
...
GLUG
ごぼ
NOOO
たーっ
GLUG
ごぼ

TURN
SUIT YOUR-SELF!
I SAID, I'M NOT GOING!
MIINA-SAN...

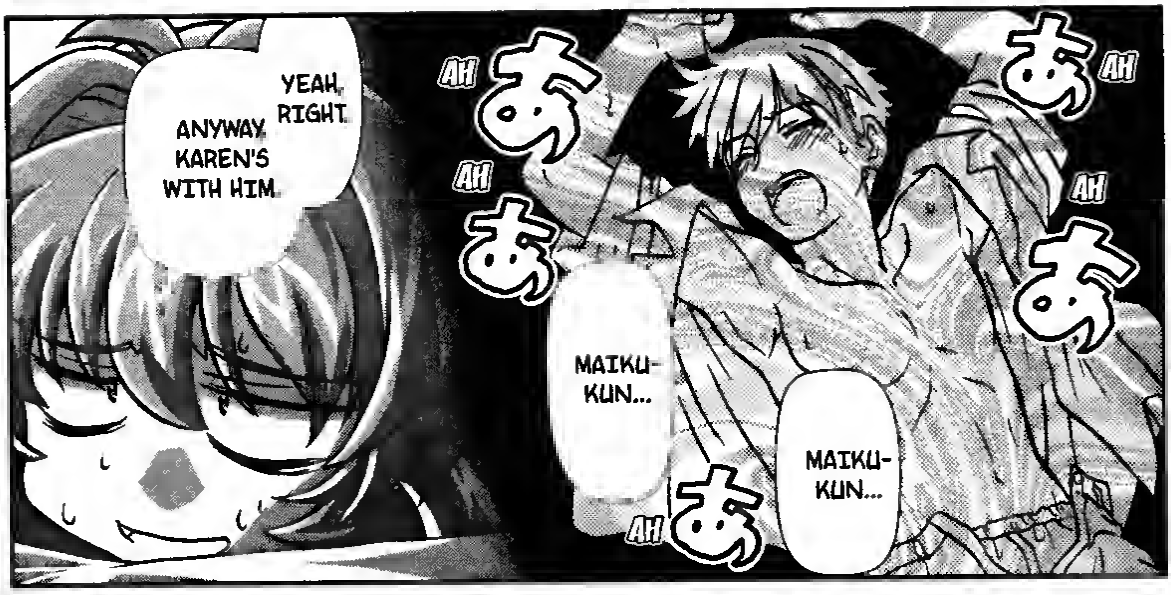
WHY'D YOU DECIDE WITHOUT ASKING?!
WE'RE ON THIS VACATION TOGETHER!
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD? IT'LL BE MORE FUN WITH EVERYONE THERE!
I'M NOT GOING!
SHAKE
SHAKE

I'M GOING FOR A WALK, THEN STRAIGHT TO IT.
ANYWAY, IT'S AT 7 PM ON THE BEACH.
AH... MAIKU-SAN...
CREAK
カチャ...

CHEERS!
...
MIINA-SAN... WAS ENJOY-ING...
LEAVE IT.
BUT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
But I drank with you...
Haruko wants to eat yakisoba!
Get on it, Shido-Kun
MIINA-SAN WAS ENJOY-ING THE IDEA OF A QUIET VACATION WITH THE THREE OF US.
GLUG
ゴク..
....
ABOUT THAT, KAREN...
YES?
SIP
ちび...

...
YOU GONNA DRINK THIS?
SWOON
DIZZY
POOF
STUPID MAIKU!
SLAM
WHY ...
WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, ALONE...
GRAB
FLOP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT THEM BEHIND TO COME HERE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US, THE SEA, AND THE STARS...
WHERE ARE MIINA AND KAREN?
SNIFF

AWAY FROM HOME, YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR INHIBITIONS BEHIND, MAIKU-KUN.
WHY DO PEOPLE ACT THIS WAY ON VACATION ...
COME ON, KAMI SHIRO-KUN.
IT SEEMS ALMOST A SIN TO WEAR CLOTHES ON A NIGHT AS PERFECT AS THIS.


YEAH, RIGHT.
ANYWAY, KAREN'S WITH HIM.
AH あ
AH あ
AH あ
AH あ
AH あ
MAIKU-KUN...
MAIKU-KUN...

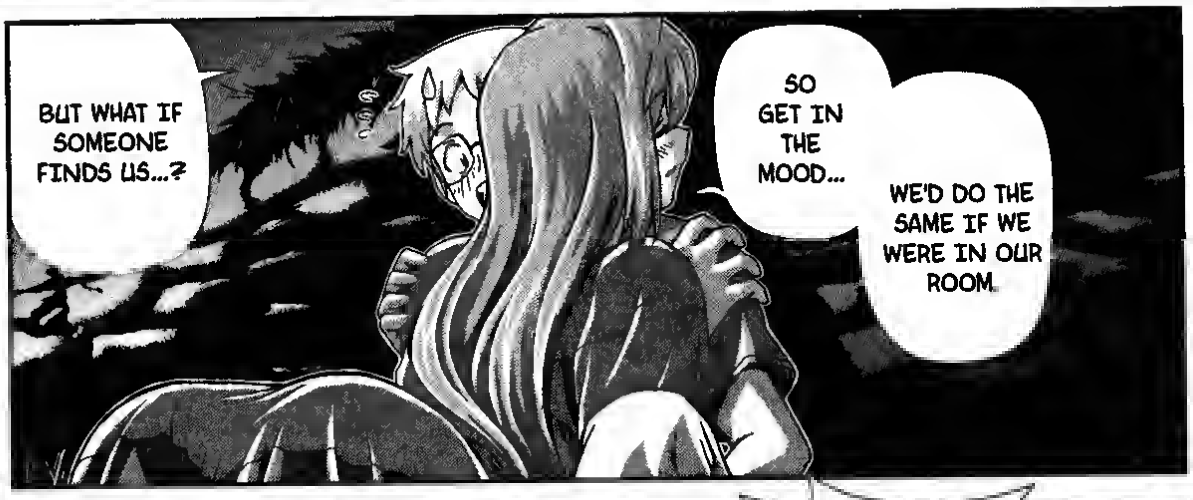
THEY WERE HERE UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO.

I GUESS I'LL SEE HOW THEY'RE DOING.
DOUBT.
むく・・

GROAN
ぐぅぅ

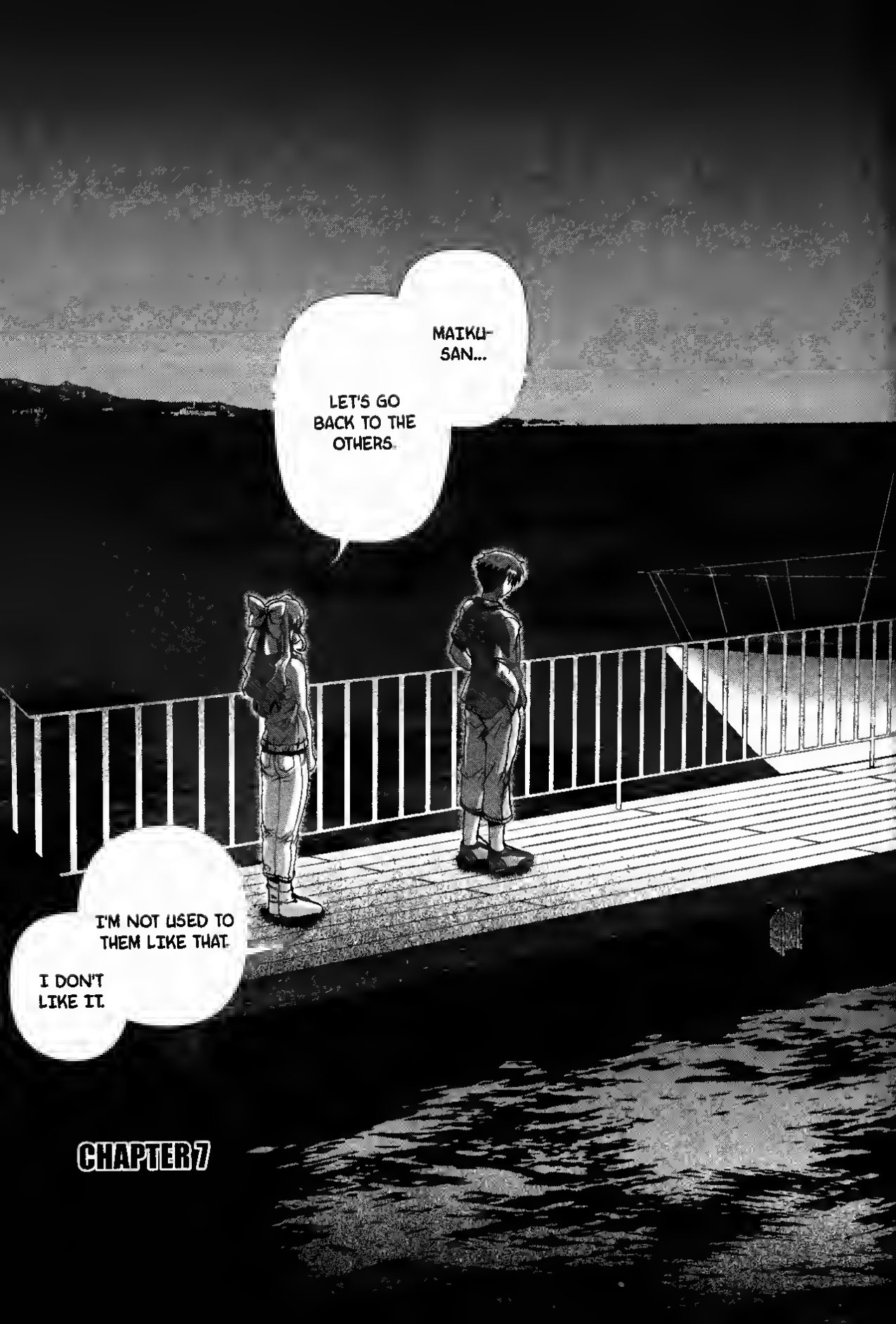
!!
DASH!!
HEH HEH...
WALKING AFTER HIM, BLUSHING.
KAMI SHIRO-KUN WAS WALKING OUT TO THE PIER.
AND KAREN ?!
KAREN WOULD-N'T TAKE THIS CHANCE TO BE ALONE WITH MAIKU
NOT WITH MAIKU!!
WITH MAIKU...
MORINO-SEMPAI'S JUICE IS STARTING TO AFFECT ME.
I FEEL FLUSHED.
UM ...
MAIKU-SAN...

KEI-KUN... HEY?
WE CAN'T... NOT OUT HERE...
RUSTLE
CHAPTER 7


BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE FINDS US...?
SO GET IN THE MOOD...
WE'D DO THE SAME IF WE WERE IN OUR ROOM.

ER... SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE.
?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
SHOCK

WHERE COULD MAIKU AND KAREN BE?
MI-MIYAFUJI-SAN...?


MAIKU-SAN...
LET'S GO BACK TO THE OTHERS.
I'M NOT USED TO THEM LIKE THAT.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
CHAPTER 7

...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO FIGHT WITH MIINA-SAN LIKE THAT...?

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
JUST FORGET IT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NO!

WHY NOT?
I DIDN'T WANT THE THREE OF US TO BE IN THE ROOM TOGETHER.

DO YOU...
HATE...
ME...?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRINK IT...
ぷはーっ
DRUNK
TELL ME...
...NO...
DROP
コン・・・
ぼくう
SHOCK
HEY!
ヨロ・・・
TRIP
BUT WHAT YOU SAID..
I-I CAN'T...
WHY...
TELL ME...
ぐいっ
PUSH

MAIKU... I...
I'M GOING BACK TO THE ROOM.
DON'T JUST SHOW UP AND MISINTERPRET THIS...
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT US THREE TO BE TOGETHER...
YOU MEAN I WAS IN THE WAY?
NO, NO, YOU CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO ONCE YOU GOT KAREN DRUNK?
ASK MORINO-SEMPAI...
WHAT IS GOING ON!?
AH!
TWIST
THUD
SPIN
WHAT'S WRONG?
...

AH!
DON'T WORRY, I'M FINE AS LONG AS I DON'T FALL INTO THE OCEAN--

I GUESS I OVERDID IT.
DID YOU HURT YOUR LEG?

I--
I'M FINE!
THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

OH, KAMI SHIRO-KUN AND THE GIRLS AREN'T WITH YOU?
ARE YOU WORRIED?
WELL, I AM THEIR TEACHER.

GOOD EVENING, MORINO-SAN.
MUNCH
もり
CRUNCH
ムシャ
BITE
BITE
がり
がぶ
MUNCH
CRUNCH

I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO EVERYONE HERE.
BUT AS A TEACHER ...
SIP
THEY WERE JUST DRINKING JUICE
IT'S FROM THE GROCERY STORE WHERE HYOSUKE-KUN GOES.
DRUNK
SHIDO-KUN WILL BE FINE,
BUT THE OTHERS MIGHT NOT BE
NO SISTER
LOVE
THAT'S FINE?!
THIS IS FINE?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO SETTLE THIS...

I'M FINE. I CAN WALK NOW.
JUST HOLD ON.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL IN.
ACTUALLY HE SAYS THERE'S ANOTHER REASON.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'D RATHER BE WITH YOUR SEMPAI FRIENDS...
YOU'RE STILL NOT STEADY SO JUST LET ME CARRY YOU.
STOMP
BECAUSE...
You really do seem fine...
STOMP
AND HE WAS ABOUT TO TELL ME...
HOW 'BOUT IT, MAIKU?

EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT BE RELATED,
BECAUSE WE'RE KIDS, WE CAN'T GET CERTAIN PROOF.
BECAUSE I'M A GUY...
IT BOTHERS ME, BEING WITH YOU...

...
I'M NOT SAYING *THAT.*
YOU... THINK ABOUT US LIKE THAT?
TH-THAT'S...

SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT LIKING OR HATING PEOPLE NOW.

I DON'T KNOW IF WE'D BE ABLE TO KEEP LIVING TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
IF THINGS BETWEEN US BECAME AWKWARD,

MAIKU-SAN REALLY DOES CARE ABOUT US...
AS FAMILY. BUT OUR FEELINGS ARE A BIT DIFFERENT.
BUT I THINK WHAT HE SAID IS RIGHT. UNTIL WE KNOW FOR SURE WHICH OF US IS RELATED...
YEAH, I DON'T WANT TO WORRY MAIKU. I CAN LIVE WITH YOU AND MAIKU AS FAMILY. WE CAN ALL LIVE TOGETHER.
... BUT IT HURTS. IT DOES...

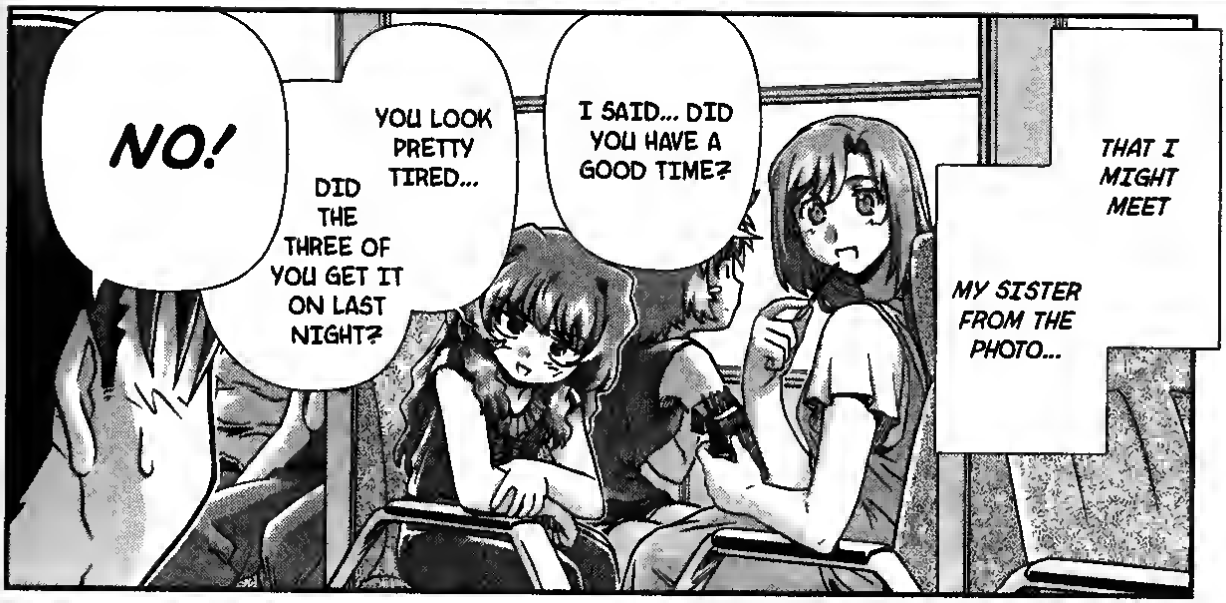
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LIKE HIM THIS MUCH...
KAREN, LET'S MAKE A PACT.
WHAT?
WHAT KIND OF PACT?
THAT NO MATTER HOW WELL THINGS GO WITH MAIKU,
NEITHER OF US WILL TELL HIM WE LIKE HIM, OR LET HIM TELL US.
WHEN YOU AND MAIKU WERE ALONE BY THE BEACH,
I WAS JEALOUS, AND I WANTED TO HURT YOU...
THAT'S WHY...
I'M ENVIOUS OF YOU TOO, MIINA-SAN.
YOU ARGUED WITH HIM LIKE AN EQUAL... AND HE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DANGER WHEN HE JUMPED IN TO SAVE YOU.

WE LIKE MAIKU AND...
WANT TO LIVE WITH HIM TOGETHER...
UNDER OUR LOVE PACT.

WAS JUST FAKE-SLEEPING.
IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTOOD, YOU'D SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BEDS...

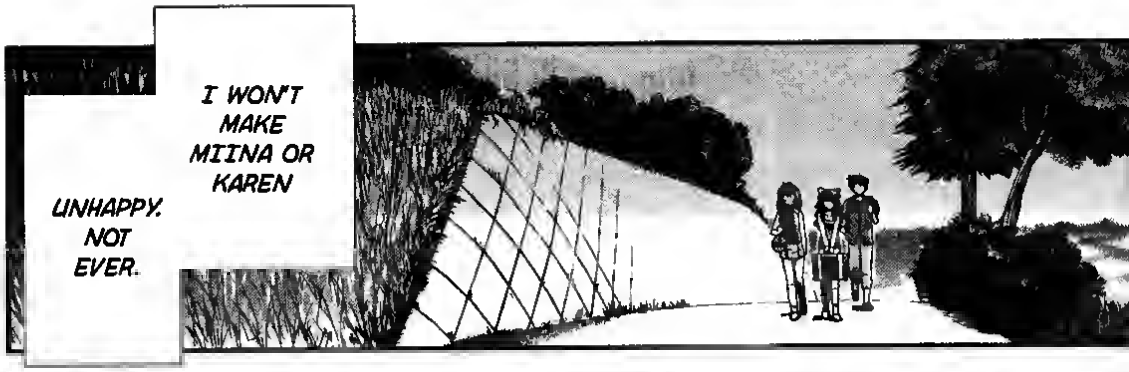
I HAD HOPED WHEN I CAME TO THAT HOUSE...
...HUH?

STRETCH
SURPRISED
No sister
I slept like a log
I moved


NO!
YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED...
DID THE THREE OF YOU GET IT ON LAST NIGHT?
I SAID... DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?
THAT I MIGHT MEET
MY SISTER FROM THE PHOTO...

BUT, NOW...
IF I MET HER, I WOULD NEVER WANT TO MAKE HER UNHAPPY...
The hung-over pair
WELL, YOU ARE GENERALLY BAD AT MAKING MOVES,
AND THEY'RE TIRED OUT FROM THAT...

I'M GLAD I CAME.
NOW I HAVE TO PROTECT BOTH OF THEM.
WE MIGHT BE RELATED.
OR WE MIGHT NOT BE.


I WON'T MAKE MIINA OR KAREN UNHAPPY. NOT EVER.

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT.

SOMEONE'S IN THE DOORWAY.
WHAT?

UM... DO YOU NEED SOME-THING?
...OH.
I CAME TO PICK UP SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF...
DID YOU LEAVE SOMETHING HERE BEFORE WE LEFT?
?
IT WAS MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE NOW.
BUT I RECOGNIZED HER INSTANTLY.
WHAT?
ギュッ
SQUEEZE
YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
SQUEEEE
にゃーっ
MOTHER-DAUGHTER... SOMETHING...
I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU!
ギュッ
HUG
EE?
SQUEE EE?
SQUEEEZE
ぎゅうぅぅ
OH, SORRY, I'VE UPSET YOU.
AND ARE YOU MY DAUGHTER'S FRIENDS?
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER HER.

CHAPTER 8
I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF
I'M KAREN'S MOTHER, HANNA MIASA.

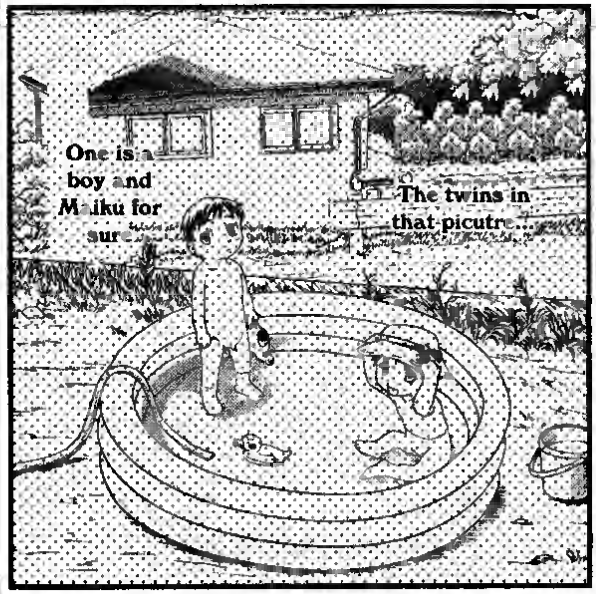
AND YOU MUST BE...
MAIKU KAMI SHIRO-SAN, THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE.
AND MIINA MIYAFUJI-SAN, WHO ALSO LIVES HERE.
AND MY DAUGHTER, KAREN ONODERA-SAN...
SO, BECAUSE I'M YOUR MOTHER, DO YOU MIND IF I JUST CALL YOU KAREN?
NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT ARE YOU REALLY KAREN'S MOTHER?
OF COURSE, I DON'T MIND.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF...?
PROOF?
WE HAVE THE SAME COLOR EYES.
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?

I FELT IT THE INSTANT I SAW HER...
A FAMILIAR AURA... OR MAYBE THE SAME SCENT AS ME...
PAT
なで
WHAT DO YOU THINK? EVEN IF IT IS TRUE, WHY'D SHE JUST SHOW UP NOW?
I'M NOT SURE...
WHAT WOULD SHE GAIN BY LYING?
IF KAREN BELIEVES IT, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
WHISPER
WHISPER
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE...
BUT IF YOU AND KAREN WERE RELATED ...
THAT WOULD MEAN THIS WOMAN IS THE MOTHER OF TWO...
AND EITHER WAY, I'M NOT RELATED ...

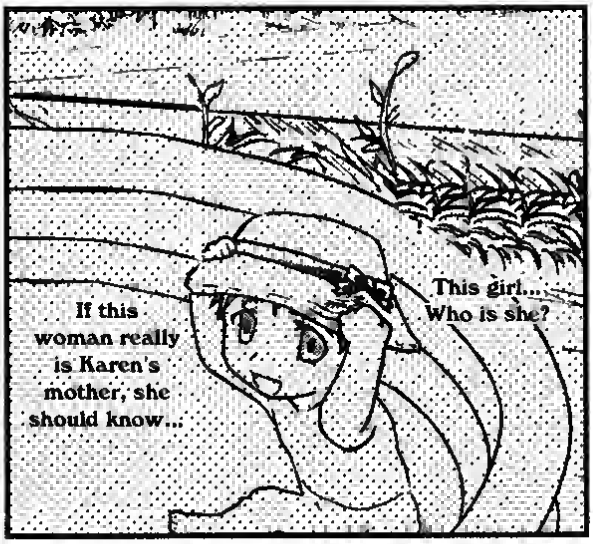
but that fact isn't totally irrelevant...
I'm sure I'm not related to her

But really, I am sure...

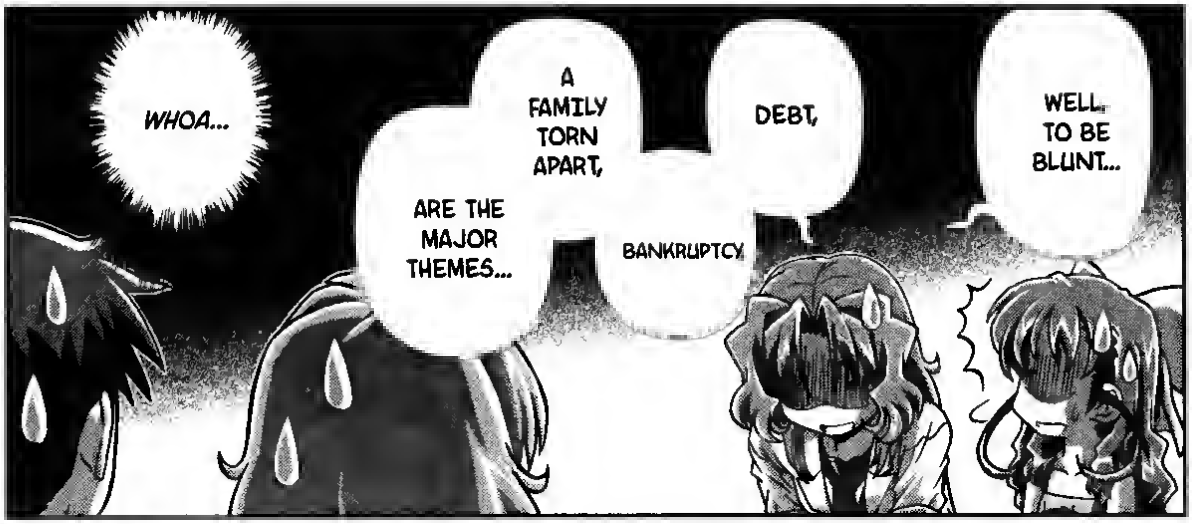
and I'll lose my home again...!
That instantly makes me a nobody, not related to anyone here...
If Maiku and Karen are twins...
I'm afraid to ask...


One is a boy and Maiku for sur
The twins in that picutre...

SURPRISE
UM... THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...


If this woman really is Karen's mother, she should know...
This girl... Who is she?

THIS PICTURE...
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS PHOTO BEFORE?
WE ALL CAME TO THIS HOUSE BECAUSE OF THIS PICTURE.
BUT THERE ARE ONLY TWO KIDS IN IT.
YES...
NOT JUST KAREN, YOU ALL HAVE IT?
ALL THREE OF YOU...?
I HAVE ONE.
I WAS ONE OF THEM, WORKING IN TOKYO, FAR FROM HOME.
IT WAS DURING A TERRIBLE RECESSION, WHEN LOTS OF PEOPLE SUFFERED.
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT IT IN DETAIL.
THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN OVER TEN YEARS AGO...

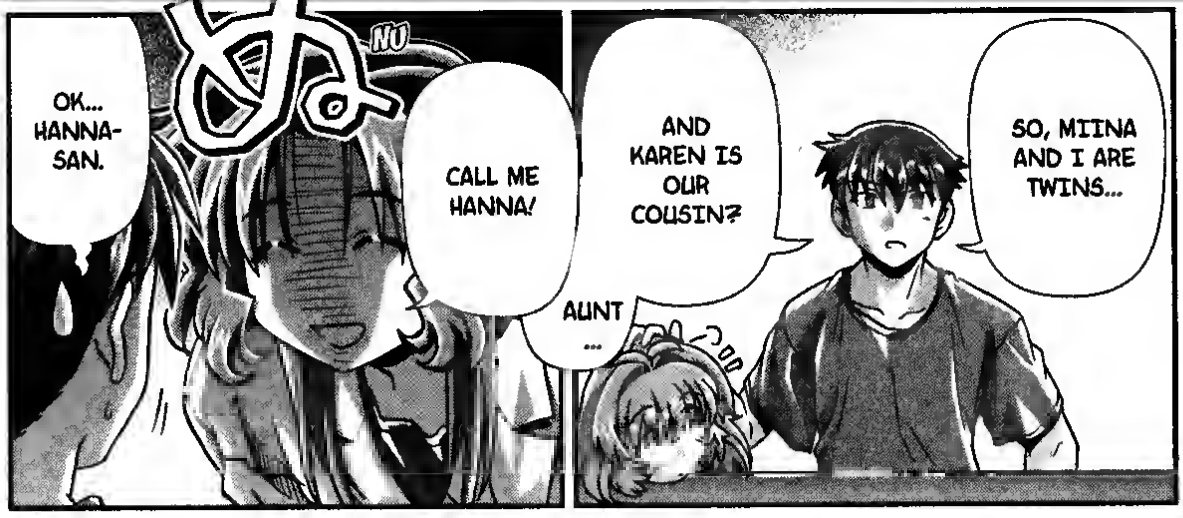

WHOA...
A FAMILY TORN APART,
ARE THE MAJOR THEMES...
DEBT,
BANKRUPTCY
WELL, TO BE BLUNT...

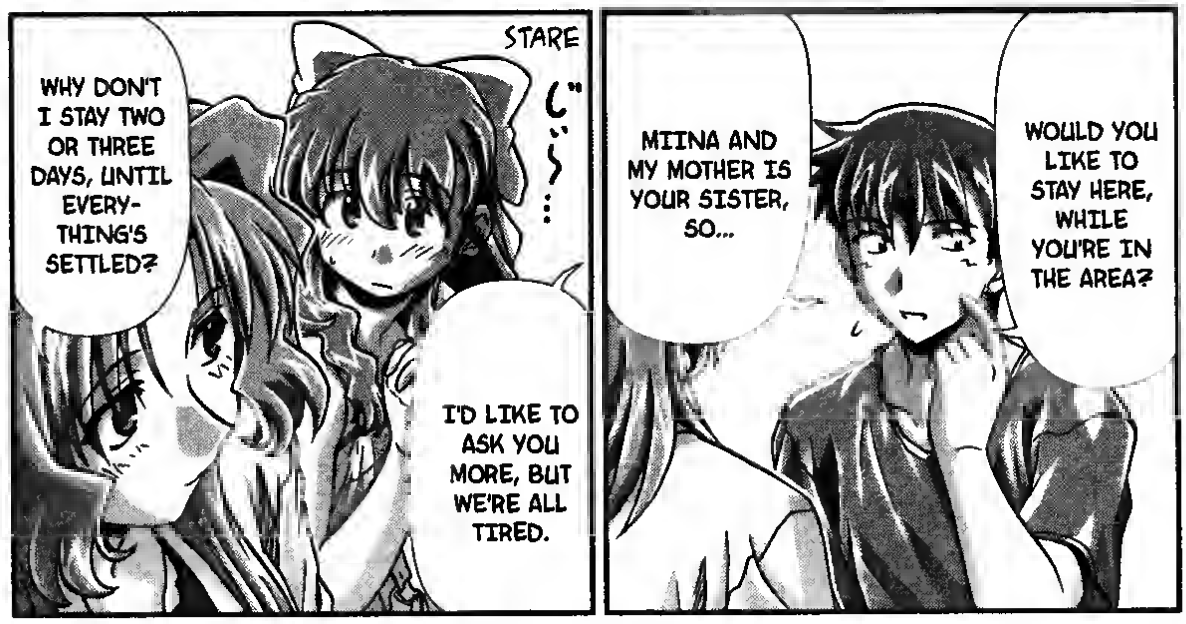
MY SISTER TOOK THIS PICTURE TO SHOW ME HOW WELL KAREN WAS DOING...
SO THE REASON WE ALL HAVE THIS PHOTO IS...

ACTUALLY, THE DEBTS WEREN'T MINE, BUT THE COLLECTORS WOULDN'T LISTEN.
BUT EVEN SO... I LEFT KAREN WITH MY SISTER AND HER HUSBAND.
BUT BEFORE SIX MONTHS HAD PASSED, EVEN THEY WERE WRAPPED UP IN IT.
THEY WERE SAD TO GIVE UP THEIR OWN TWIN CHILDREN AND KAREN...
BUT THEY SENT THE THREE OFF TO DISTANT FRIENDS AND ORPHANAGES, HIDING THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES.

MY SISTER PROBABLY WANTED YOU ALL TO HAVE SOMETHING OF THAT SHORT, HAPPY TIME YOU HAD TOGETHER.
TO LEAD YOU ALL BACK TO THIS HOUSE SOMEDAY...
I THINK THAT'S WHY SHE GAVE YOU THE PICTURE.

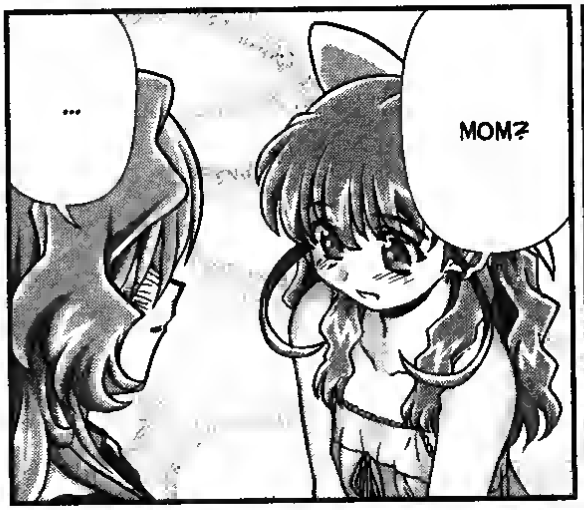
I'VE BEEN TREASURING A PICTURE I'M NOT EVEN IN...
I think it's Karen and Maiku-kun in the picture...
...
THE TWIN SISTER WAS IN THE HOUSE NAPPING, OR SOME SUCH...
ACCORDING TO THE LETTER I GOT WITH IT FROM MY SISTER...
Who's missing?
SO WHY AREN'T WE ALL IN THE PICTURE?

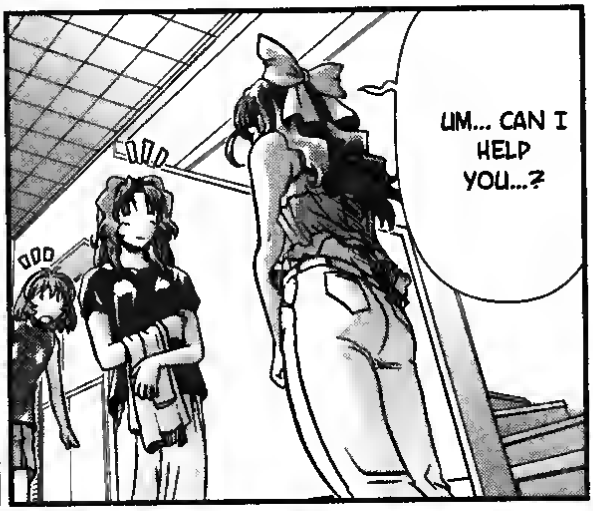

OK... HANNA-SAN.
NU
CALL ME HANNA!
AUNT ...
AND KAREN IS OUR COUSIN?
SO, MIINA AND I ARE TWINS...


WHY DON'T I STAY TWO OR THREE DAYS, UNTIL EVERY-THING'S SETTLED?
STARE
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU MORE, BUT WE'RE ALL TIRED.
MIINA AND MY MOTHER IS YOUR SISTER, SO...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY HERE, WHILE YOU'RE IN THE AREA?

BUT YOU'RE OUR GUEST!
I WANT TO COOK.
I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE KITCHEN IN THIS HOUSE FOR A LONG TIME.
WRING
CRAWL
WRING
CRAWL

WELL IF SHE'S STAYING, WE'D BETTER GET SOMETHING READY FOR DINNER.
YEAH.
STEP
STEP
STANDING
WILL YOU LET ME MAKE SOME-THING?


MOM?
...


UM... CAN I HELP YOU...?

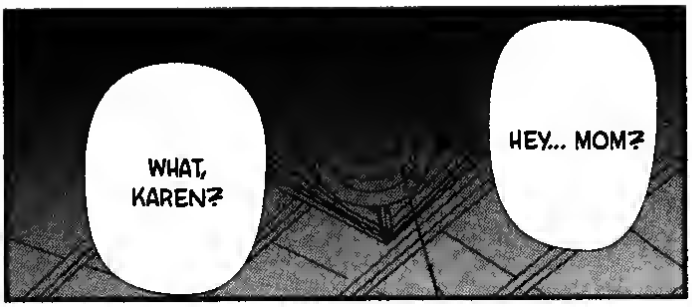
I GUESS.
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.

I'LL SLEEP IN MAIKU'S ROOM.
BUT THEN MIINA-SAN WOULD HAVE TO...
SINCE YOU'RE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER,
WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP IN MIINA'S FUTON WITH KAREN, HANNA-SAN?
WE'RE SIBLINGS, SO I DON'T THINK HE'LL TRY ANYTHING.
MIINA-SAN, MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO BREACHES OF THE PACT, OK?
WELL, IF YOU INSIST, I'LL SLEEP HERE. THANK YOU.
STARE
I WILL...
...
ANYWAY KAREN...
HAVE FUN WITH YOUR MOM WHILE SHE'S HERE.

WOULD YOU MISS HER?
OF COURSE!
ARE YOU OK WITH THAT?
I WONDER IF KAREN'S GONNA LEAVE.
WHAT?
SHE LIKES YOU.
BUT IT'S OK. KAREN'S NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
I'D BE REALLY SAD. I'D PROBA-BLY CRY.
I LIKE YOU TOO, MAIKU.
YOU DO KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. HER MOM CAME TO GET HER.

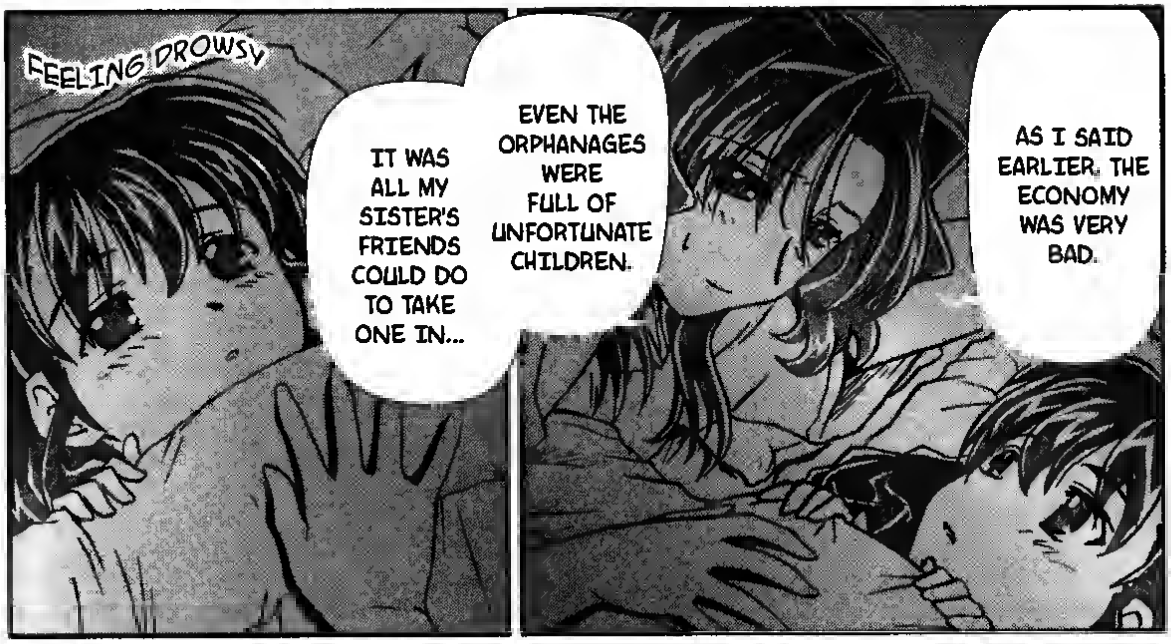
I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW WE'RE SIBLINGS, BUT
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M A LITTLE DISAP-POINTED.
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS FOR YOU,
ONLY KAREN CAN LET HERS GROW.
AND YOU MIGHT EVEN RETURN THEM.
SO, IF I WERE IN KAREN'S PLACE, I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU.
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE, THAT WOULD BE MY UNCHANGING, TOP PRIORITY.
MIINA...
I...
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT.

I'M NOT CONFESSING MY LOVE.
WE'RE BROTHER AND SISTER SO IT DOESN'T COUNT.
BUT CONSIDER KAREN, OK?
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WENT OUT WITH HER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT KINDA THING NOW.
I'LL SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM.
YOU CAN SLEEP IN MY BED TONIGHT.
FLASH
WE'RE SIBLINGS, SO HOW 'BOUT WE SLEEP TOGETHER?
POP
...
HEY, YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT THAT KINDA THING!
IDIOT.
GO TO BED.
CREAK
SLAM
HEH HEH...


HEY... MOM?
WHAT, KAREN?

WHY WERE THE THREE OF US ALL SENT TO DIFFERENT PLACES?
IT WAS TOO MUCH TO ASK ANYONE TO TAKE ALL THREE OF YOU IN, AND, OF COURSE, THEY WANTED THE TWINS TO BE TOGETHER, BUT...

IT'S OK. I'M USED TO REJECTION.


FEELING DROWSY
IT WAS ALL MY SISTER'S FRIENDS COULD DO TO TAKE ONE IN...
EVEN THE ORPHANAGES WERE FULL OF UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN.
AS I SAID EARLIER, THE ECONOMY WAS VERY BAD.

ADOPTED BY MY UNCLE...
OH, SO I WAS THE ONLY ONE.
HUH?
WHY DID I SAY ALL THAT?
MAYBE ALL THREE OF US WERE IN IT...
I SHOULD HAVE PUT MINE IN A FRAME LIKE MAIKU DID.
MINE'S MUCH MORE FADED...
HMM?

...WAIT... THIS GIRL'S...
LOOKING AT THIS BRIGHTER COPY...
THIS GIRL IS...
THIS GIRL'S HAIR IS...
I CAN TELL WHO IT IS!

WHAT AN ANGELIC FACE...
IT MAKES ME WONDER IF... I'M MAKING A HORRIBLE MISTAKE...

# CHAPTER 9

SO...
YOU FOUND ONODERA-SAN'S MOTHER..
AND TALKING TO HER, YOU FOUND OUT YOU AND MIYAFUJI-SAN SHARE THE SAME PARENTS?
SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S ABSENT TODAY..
WELL, THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE.
LOOKS LIKE MIYAFUJI-SAN IS ABSENT AS WELL.
SHE NEEDED TIME TO DEAL WITH ALL THIS.
FINDING OUT WHO YOU ARE CAN REALLY SHAKE YOU UP.
THIS MORNING, WE FOUND OUT THERE WAS A MISTAKE.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
A MISTAKE...?

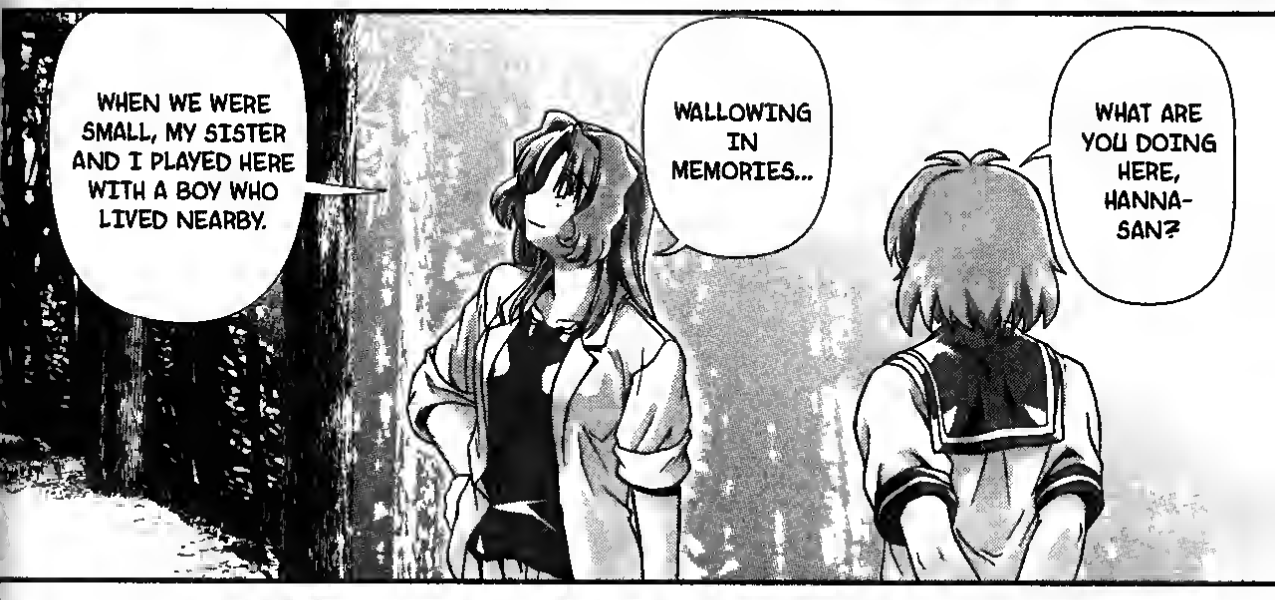
# CHAPTER 9

...

RUSTLE
ガサ

YEAH, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO AT HOME

UM...
OH, ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL?


WHEN WE WERE SMALL, MY SISTER AND I PLAYED HERE WITH A BOY WHO LIVED NEARBY.
WALLOWING IN MEMORIES...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HANNA-SAN?

...REALLY?

That's the thing about small towns
THAT BOY ENDED UP MARRYING MY SISTER. IT JUST ISN'T FAIR.

ARE YOU REALLY MY MOTHER, HANNA-SAN?
DO YOU WISH I WASN'T?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I TOLD YOU THIS MORNING...
THAT OF THE THREE, THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS ADOPTED BY A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY
WAS MY SISTER'S TWIN GIRL.
AND KAREN SAID LAST NIGHT...
THAT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE RAISED IN HER UNCLE'S HOME.
THAT'S PROOF KAREN IS MY SISTER'S KID.
AND PROOF SHE'S MAIKU-KUN'S TWIN SISTER...

SO BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, I MUST BE YOUR DAUGHTER?
HMPH
WHOA...
YOU'RE AWFULLY BLUNT.
But you're exactly right

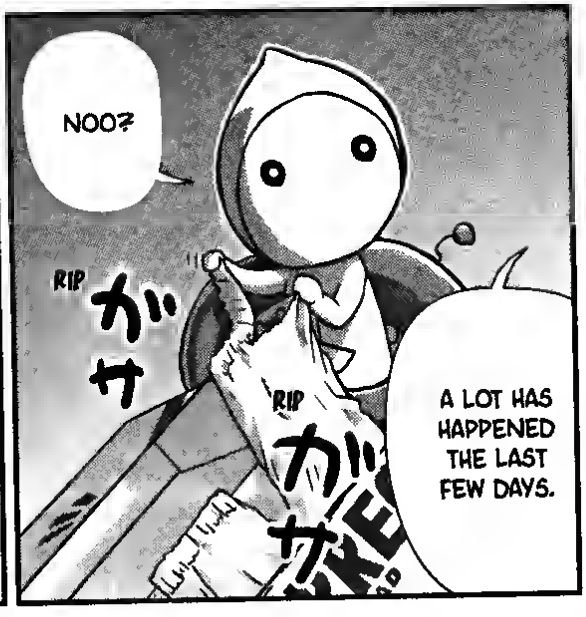
BUT THAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, MIINA-SAN.
THAT'S JUST LIKE ME WHEN I WAS A GIRL.
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME,
MOM.

...YEAH.
IF YOU MEAN YOUR MISTAKE, THAT'S FINE.
SORRY, MIINA.
WELL, FOR EVERY-THING,
I'M SORRY.

I PUT KAREN IN A TOUGH SPOT, TOO.

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE.
OH, MARIE-SAN!
NO!
SQUEAK

WE WENT ON A TRIP TO OKINAWA.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE OKINAWA IS?


NOO?
RIP
RIP
A LOT HAS HAPPENED THE LAST FEW DAYS.

ポリ
CRUNCH
ポリ
CRUNCH
SHE SAID MIINA-SAN WAS MAIKU-SAN'S TWIN SISTER...
THEN WHEN WE GOT BACK, A WOMAN WHO SAID SHE WAS MY MOTHER WAS WAITING OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
SO, OKINAWA WAS FUN, BUT...
BUT THINKING ABOUT THE LOVE PACT I MADE WITH MIINA-SAN... MADE EVERYTHING MORE COMPLICATED.
ハァー...
SLAM
OF COURSE I WAS HAPPY TO MEET MY MOM,
BUT I WAS THRILLED TO LEARN I COULD GO OUT WITH MAIKU-SAN.
I USED TO THINK IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE HIS SISTER,
BUT I'M NOT THAT EXCITED NOW.
MAIKU-SAN IS MY BROTHER...
AND TODAY, MIINA AND I HAVE SWITCHED PLACES.

EVEN THOUGH WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER IF WE WERE SIBLINGS...
IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE WILL TAKE MAIKU-SAN FROM ME.
AS HIS SISTER, I CAN'T MAKE MAIKU-SAN PAY ATTENTION TO ME.
ROLL
I WONDER IF I'M DREAMING.
...
NO?
THAT'S IT! THIS IS A DREAM!
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT.
ROLL
WHEN I WAKE UP, EVERY-THING WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL.
I'LL BE SORRY TO LOSE MY MOTHER,
BUT I WANT EVERYONE TO GO BACK TO BEFORE,
SQUEEEE!
CRASH!

...
...OW...
...DOES THIS HURT...
WEIRD... WHY...
IN A DREAM?
GROAN
UNNGH
...

AREN'T YOU HAPPY?
I'M NOT UNHAPPY.

I SEE.
SO, YOU FOUND OUT WHO YOU'RE RELATED TO?
YEAH...

BUT YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY, EITHER.
THAT'S TRUE.
THINGS HAD BEEN GREAT UP UNTIL NOW.
ONE IS HIS SISTER, THE OTHER, HIS COUSIN.
LEGALLY, THAT POSES NO PROBLEMS FOR MARRIAGE, BUT SINCE THE MOTHER HAS SHOWN UP, SHE'LL NATURALLY WANT TO GO LIVE WITH HER.
SO, MAIKU-KUN IS
WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERVERTED FANTASIES HE'LL ACT OUT WHEN MIYAFUJI-SAN, HIS COUSIN, HAS LEFT, AND HE LIVES ALONE WITH HIS SISTER, ONODERA-SAN.
R-REALLY, MAIKU-KUN?
YOU'RE SO WRONG!
BESIDES ...
MIINA HASN'T DECIDED WHETHER SHE'S LEAVING YET.
I wouldn't leave you, Maiku...
Whatever [illegible] in the future, that would be my unchanging, top priority!

WHAT?!
IS MIYAFUJI-SAN REALLY QUITTING SCHOOL?
OH, MAIKU-KUN!
I OVER-HEARD IN THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE.
ドカ
RUN
"I'M GOING TO LIVE WITH MY MOTHER, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING,"
IS WHAT I HEARD MIYAFUJI-SAN SAY TO YAMADA-SENSEI.
WERE YOU EVER GONNA TELL ME?
USE YOUR INDOOR VOICE.
WHAT'S GOING ON, MIINA?

DING
LUNCH TIME IS OVER.
BETTER GET BACK TO YOUR CLASS.
LOOK AT ME WHEN YOU SAY THAT!
DONG
DING
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAID LAST NIGHT!
I TALKED WITH MY MOM AND DECIDED BEFORE SCHOOL THIS MORNING.
...
DONG
YOU'D BETTER BE WAITING FOR ME!
WE'LL FINISH THIS AFTER CLASS.
LEAVING NO TRACE.
IN A BIG HURRY.
SHE RACED OUT AS SOON AS THE BELL RANG.
DAMN!
SHE LEFT?

KAMI SHIRO-KUN LEFT.
YEAH, THANKS.
I FEEL BAD FOR HIM, THOUGH.

THANKS...
I WON'T FORGET YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

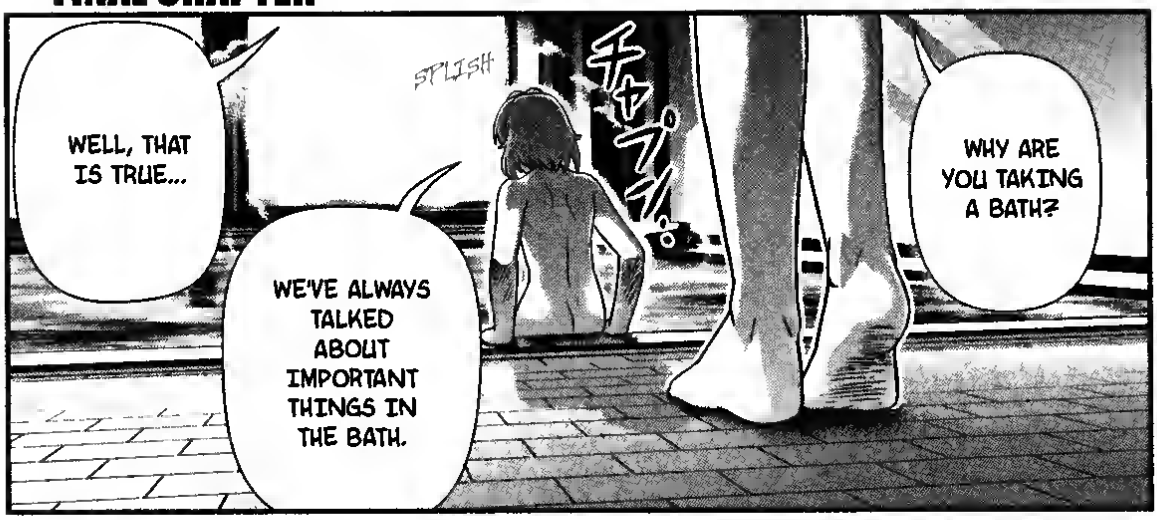
WE DON'T GET IT, EITHER.
ARE YOU REALLY QUIT-TING SCHOOL, MIINA-CHAN?

I FINALLY MET MY MOM.
I KNOW IT'S SUD-DEN, BUT...

THERE'S SOMETHING HANNA-SAN ASKED ME TOO.
I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN.
I CAME TO SEE YOU, BUT...
YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE LEAVING.
JUST LIKE TWINS...
MAIKU SAID THE SAME THING.
CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL WE GET HOME?
OK...
I KNEW I HAD TO TELL YOU, ANYWAY.
NOOO!
MIINA'S NOT BACK YET?

OH, MAIKU-KUN, WELCOME HOME.
NO, SHE'S NOT BACK YET.
AND KAREN WENT OUT A LITTLE BIT AGO.
MIINA SAID SHE WAS GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL,
BUT SHE CAN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT IDEA ON HER OWN.
...WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?

# FINAL CHAPTER



FINAL CHAPTER

ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
KNOCK
KNOCK
MAIKU-KUN,
CAN I HAVE A MINUTE?
MIINA CAN DECIDE FOR HERSELF.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND
WHY SHE WANTS TO GO?
...
TURN

SUDDENLY SAID SHE WANTS TO LEAVE.
MIINA SAID SHE'D STAY HERE WITH ME.
BUT THEN SHE...
HER OWN WAY OF THINK-ING?!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MIINA?
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS MY EMOTIONS.
SHE HAS HER OWN WAY OF THINKING...
HER PLACE...
NO, EVEN BEFORE THEN, SHE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER PLACE.
EVER SINCE SHE CAME HERE...

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GIVE THAT TO HER.
NOW?
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME WHEN WE NEEDED YOU?
BOLT
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT.
WHEN YOU...
ABANDONED US ALL?!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HURT ALL OF YOU.
SO, IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU TO HATE ME.
NO...
I...
GASP
I THINK KAREN DISLIKES ME, TOO.

I'VE BEEN BACK TO THIS HOUSE MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS
THIS TIME, FINALLY IT LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE WAS LIVING THERE.
BUT I WONDERED WHETHER I HAD THE RIGHT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS A MOTHER.
BUT ALL THREE OF YOU WERE SMILING WHEN YOU CAME BACK.
YOU'VE SUPPORTED THE GIRLS SO WELL...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND...
NO, I'M JUST A KID...
I'M TRYING TO BECOME STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITY.
BUT BEING ABANDONED FELT LIKE BEING BETRAYED, AND IT HURT.
I WONDERED WHY I WAS...
EMBRACE
...
BUT I DON'T HATE YOU!
I WAS JUST LONELY.
SO IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT ABANDONING THEM,
I WANTED SOMEONE TO STAY WITH ME.

IT'S FUNNY... I TOLD HIM I LIKED HIM, BECAUSE WE'RE TWINS AND HE COULDN'T DUMP ME...
BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, IT'S A POSSIBILITY.
BUT NO MATTER HOW ROCKY IT GETS, MAIKU-SAN WILL ALWAYS COME AFTER YOU, MIINA-SAN.
YOU DON'T GET IT, KAREN!
I LIKE MAIKU SO
I DON'T WANT HIM TO PITY ME!
I DIDN'T GET A RESPONSE FROM MAIKU. I MEAN, I WAS TOO SCARED TO HEAR A RESPONSE.
LIKE MAIKU SAID BEFORE, IF OUR RELATIONSHIP GETS ROCKY, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE TOGETHER LIKE WE ARE NOW.
SO, YOU WANT TO GET OUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS?
...
I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD HIM...
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE I MET YOU TWO.

...IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I JOINED THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM.
NOT TO TOOT MY OWN HORN, BUT I WAS PRETTY FAST.
IT WAS A LOT MORE FUN TO RUN AROUND THE TRACK AND TALK WITH FRIENDS THAN IT WAS TO GO BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE...
SO, THAT'S WHAT LED TO MY FRIEND'S MOTHER ADOPTING ME.
AND HER MOM USED TO DO TRACK, TOO, SO SHE FAVORED ME SO MUCH MY FRIEND GOT JEALOUS.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER FELT NEEDED...
SO I WORKED HARD TO MAKE HER LIKE ME MORE, TO PROTECT MY PLACE THERE...
BUT AS I TRIED MORE AND MORE, I LOST MY PLACE THROUGH MY OWN CARELESSNESS.
I TOLD MYSELF I COULDN'T STAY THERE ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT IN TRYING TO BECOME FASTER AND FASTER, I'D LEFT MY FRIEND BEHIND.
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT... EVERYTHING GETS MESSED UP BECAUSE OF ME!
AND IT'S THE SAME NOW... IF I HADN'T TOLD MAIKU I LIKE HIM...
EVERYTHING WOULD STILL BE NORMAL!

I KNOW YOU'VE HAD HARD TIMES, BUT
YOU SHOULD FIND OUT WHAT MAIKU'S FEELINGS ARE BEFORE...
YOU'RE SO STRONG, KAREN.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THE SAME THINGS I HAVE...

THAT'S WHY I UNDERSTAND!
I LOVE MAIKU LIKE YOU DO!
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM, NO MATTER WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP!
I CAME TO TELL YOU I SUPPORT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.
I CAN'T... I CAN'T STAND TO LOOK AT MAIKU'S FACE.

BUT YOU LIKE HIM TOO MUCH TO FORGET HIM AND MOVE AWAY.
I WOULDN'T FORGET HIM!

MY HEART RACES AT THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE... I CAN'T IGNORE IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTING LIKE THIS.

I JUST THINK I NEED SOME TIME AWAY TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE THINGS.
WHAT?
BUT IF WE KEEP LIVING TOGETHER, IT'LL JUST MAKE THINGS AWKWARD.
SO, YOU MEAN...
I WOULDN'T SINK THAT LOW.
THIS MIGHT BE YOUR CHANCE, TSUBAKI.
BUT...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WAS GOING TO BE, SO I SAID GOOD-BYE!
THEN WHY DID YOU SAY GOOD-BYE LIKE THAT?!
YOU WERE GONNA COME RIGHT BACK?
HE'LL PROBABLY BE LONELY FOR A WHILE.
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

KAREN-SAN, I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED.
YOU ACT A LOT LIKE MY SISTER, SO...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I WAS GLAD TO HAVE A MOTHER.
SO MAIKU-KUN DIDN'T COME TO SEE US OFF...
HE WAS STILL ASLEEP WHEN I CHECKED ON HIM, SO I DIDN'T WAKE HIM.
I set his alarm clock before I left though
HE'S IGNORING ME... I GUESS I HAVE NO REASON TO COME BACK...
NO, MAIKU-SAN JUST DOESN'T LIKE GOOD-BYES.
HE LIKES YOU, SO HE GOT UPSET WHEN IT SEEMED HANNA-SAN WAS TAKING YOU AWAY.
THAT'S A NICE WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT IF THAT WERE TRUE, YOU'D THINK HE'D TRY TO STOP ME?
IF HE SEES THAT NOTE...
I THINK HE'LL COME.
HAH
はっ
HAH
はっ
HAH
WHAT...?

THE TRAIN'S ABOUT TO LEAVE...
If you don't want this to continue,
HURRY DOWN TO THE TRAIN STATION!
- KAREN
WHAT WAS KAREN THINKING?
JEEZ...
GRAB
YOU LIKE MAIKU-KUN, DON'T YOU?
UM..
WELL...
Everyone knows!
...
IF I TAKE YOU, HE'LL HATE ME.
YOU SHOULD STAY HERE.
I WANT TO STAY.
I LIKED LIVING WITH MAIKU AND KAREN.
BUT I'M AFRAID. EVEN THOUGH THINGS ARE GOOD NOW, SOMEDAY I MIGHT STOP LIKING MAIKU.
PLUS I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU, MOM.
EVEN IF I DO CATCH MIINA...
WHAT WILL I TELL HER?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO GO...
VROOOOOOOOM

I WAS TWO YEARS OLDER THAN YOU WHEN I LEFT HERE.
I-IT ISN'T...
IF THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR LEAVING, I'M NOT HAPPY TO HEAR IT.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO LIVE WITH YOU.
I wonder if you're hoping to hear the same words I was...
I don't know what he planned to say to me, if he had caught me...
Much later, I learned someone did come for me.
IS THIS HOW WE'RE GOING TO PART?
AT THIS RATE I WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK OR SEE HER...
CLACK
CHUGGA
CHUGGA
CLACK
CHUGGA
DAMN... MINA...
But a passing train stopped him from making it on time
And I hoped someone would come to this station to stop me...
But all that ever came was the train.
MARIE

DON'T GOOOOOOOOOOOOO
SMOOM
MAIKU ...?
OH...
TWIRL
TWIRL
OPEN
HM? YEAH...
GRAB
I KNEW YOU'D COME!
MAIKU-SAN!
HOW DID YOU...?
TAP
TAP
TAP

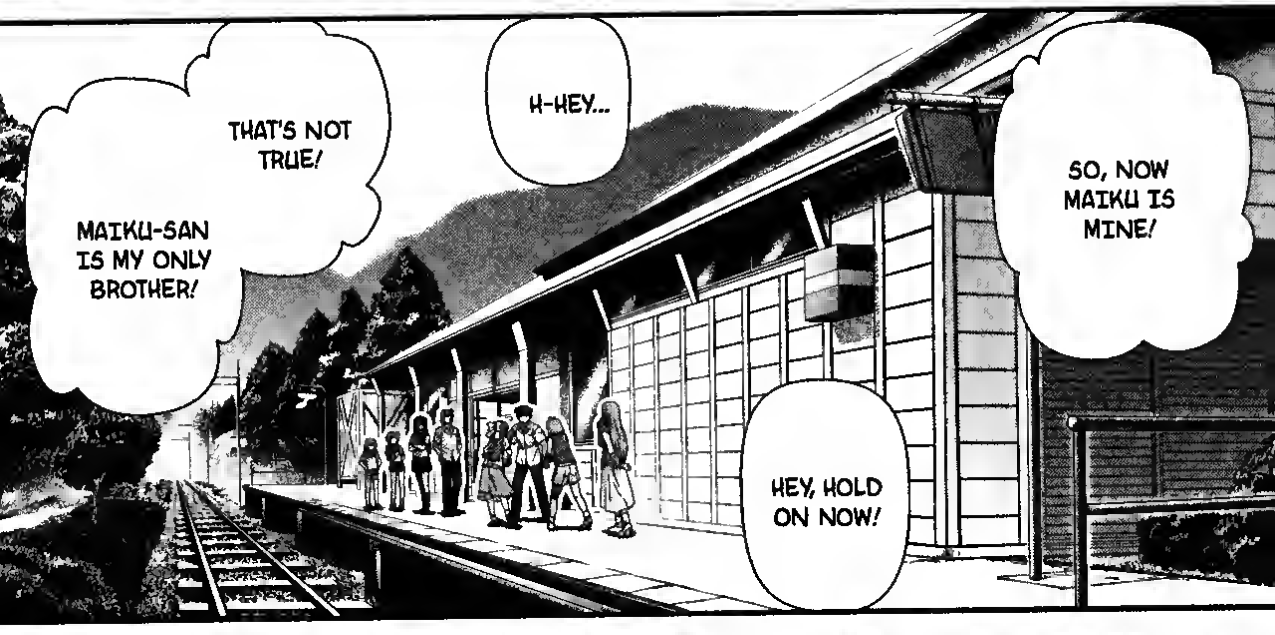
AH, THAT IS...
I, JUST NOW...
もじ
TWIDDLE
もじ
HEY!
DON'T DAWDLE!
ドン
SHOVE
MAIKU-KUN, LOOK AFTER MY DAUGHTER, MIINA, FOR ME!
プシュー
SHUT
SHAKE
フル
フル
WAIT-- MOM!
SQUEE, SQUEE, SQUEEZ!
OH, DEAR...
ガラ
KA-RANG
?!
CHUGGA
ガタン
...
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン

WAY TO GO, MIYAFU-JI'S MOM!
SHE LITERALLY PUSHED THEM TOGETHER.
KAMISHIRO-KUN WAS JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME.
そろ…
SO, EVERY-THING'S BACK TO NORMAL?

I DON'T HAVE ANY-WHERE TO GO..
I'M GOOD AT COOK-ING AND CLEANING, SO, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...IDIOT

THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T GET ALL UPPITY JUST 'CAUSE YOUR LIPS HAPPENED TO MEET HIS.
BUT YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE A LIFE PARTNER CAREFULLY.
MAIKU-KUN HAS A STRONG SENSE OF RESPON-SIBILITY.
POOR KAREN-CHAN!
WHAT?!
いカ
PISSED OFF
UH... GUYS?

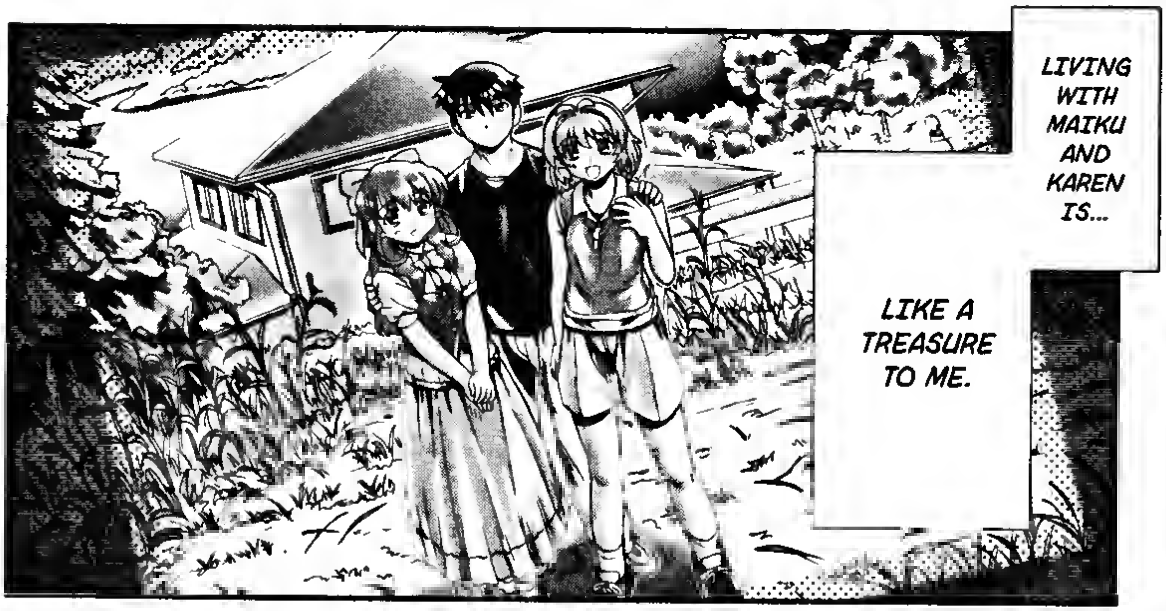
I BET YOU ALL ENJOYED WATCHING THE DRAMA...
THAT'S NOT FAIR, KAMISHIRO-KUN.
I WAS ROOTING FOR YOU, NOT WATCHING.
ENJOYING IT IS THE NATURAL REWARD.


SO, NOW MAIKU IS MINE!
H-HEY...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
MAIKU-SAN IS MY ONLY BROTHER!
HEY, HOLD ON NOW!

I guess I won't go back for a while.
I wonder if I pushed her too hard.
MY ONLY RIVAL WAS MY SISTER...
SHE'LL HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER...

DEAR MOM, HOW ARE YOU?
OWW, MY BACK..
I'M EXHAUSTED!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
THINGS ARE BUSY, AS USUAL.
SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG.
Cutting the grass is hard work
ALL RIGHT, IT'S GOOD EXERCISE.
We're gonna change
PANT
PANT
ALL THREE OF US ARE WELL.
WHAT'S THIS HOUSE?
HM...
I heard it from Hanna-San
THE HOUSE WE LIVE IN APPARENTLY BELONGED TO MY AND KAREN'S MOM, AND MIINA'S MOM'S FAMILY...
IT'S HARD TO FIND TIME TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GO WITH YOU.
BUT I PREFER LIVING LIKE THIS TO WORRYING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
AND THIS IS THE HOUSE OUR MOTHER LIVED IN AFTER SHE GOT MARRIED.
SO THIS IS THE HOUSE WHERE KAREN AND I WERE BORN.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T REPAIR IT, WE CAN AT LEAST KEEP THE YARD NICE.
I'M GONNA TRY TO MIMIC THE ANGLE OF THIS PICTURE.
HANNA-SAN SAID SHE ALSO CAME TO CHECK UP ON THE HOUSE...
I THOUGHT OUR PARENTS MIGHT, TOO...
I KNOW MAIKU AND I ARE NOT IN LOVE, BUT...
THAT'S TRUE.
ENJOYING THE PRESENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
OK.
WE'RE READY.


LIVING WITH MAIKU AND KAREN IS...
LIKE A TREASURE TO ME.

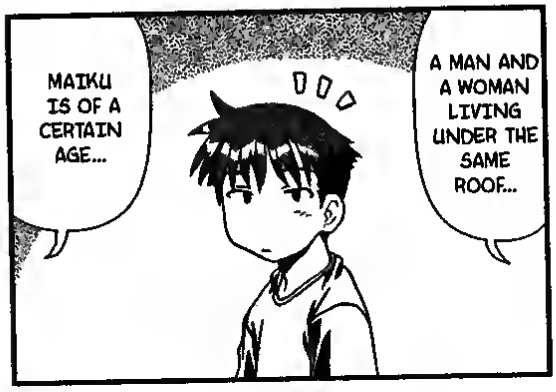
I want to send her picture
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL SHE SENDS SOMETHING.
BUT I DIDN'T ASK HER ADDRESS OR ANYTHING
SO I WAS GONNA SEND A LETTER TO MOM...

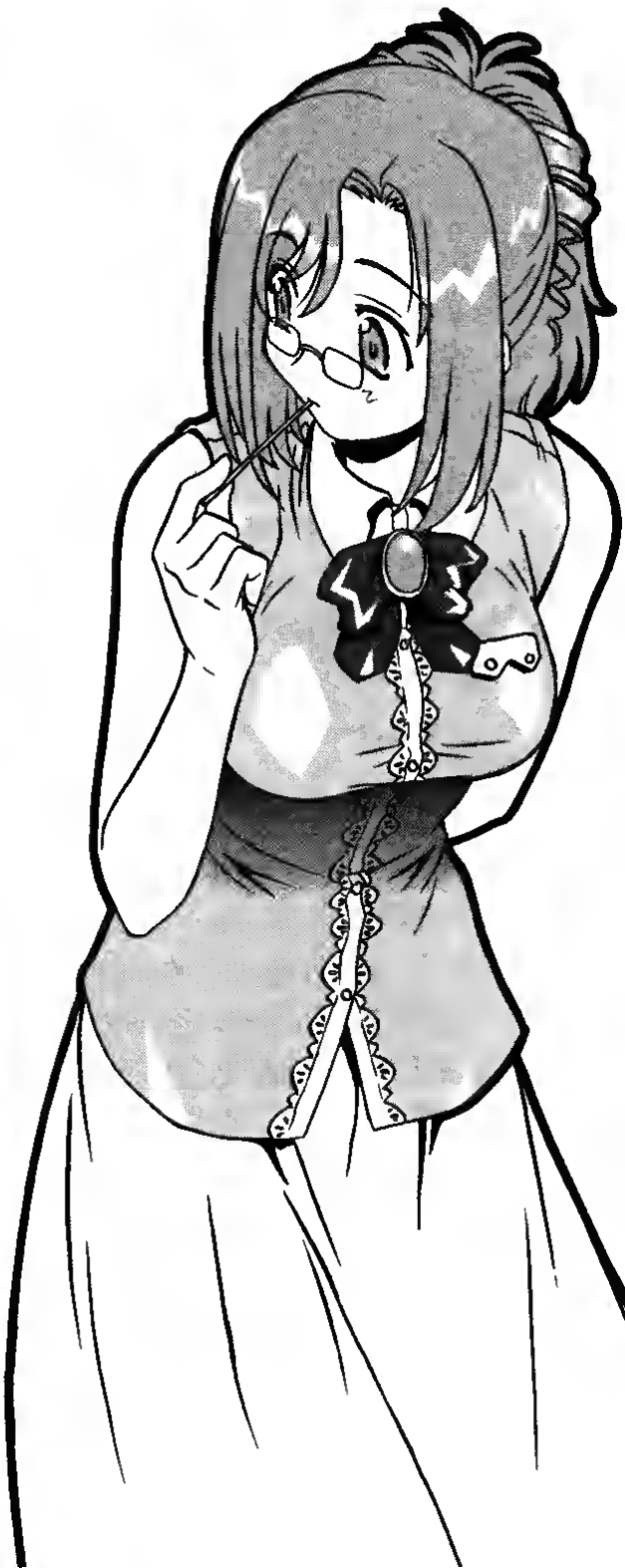
NO, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO KAMISHIRO AND HIS FRIENDS...
YEAH, ARE YOU FORGETTING ANYTHING?
Oh, the phone card's almost out of
CLICK
HI, HARUKO? IT'S YOUR BROTHER ...
YEAH, I'M STILL IN OKINAWA ...

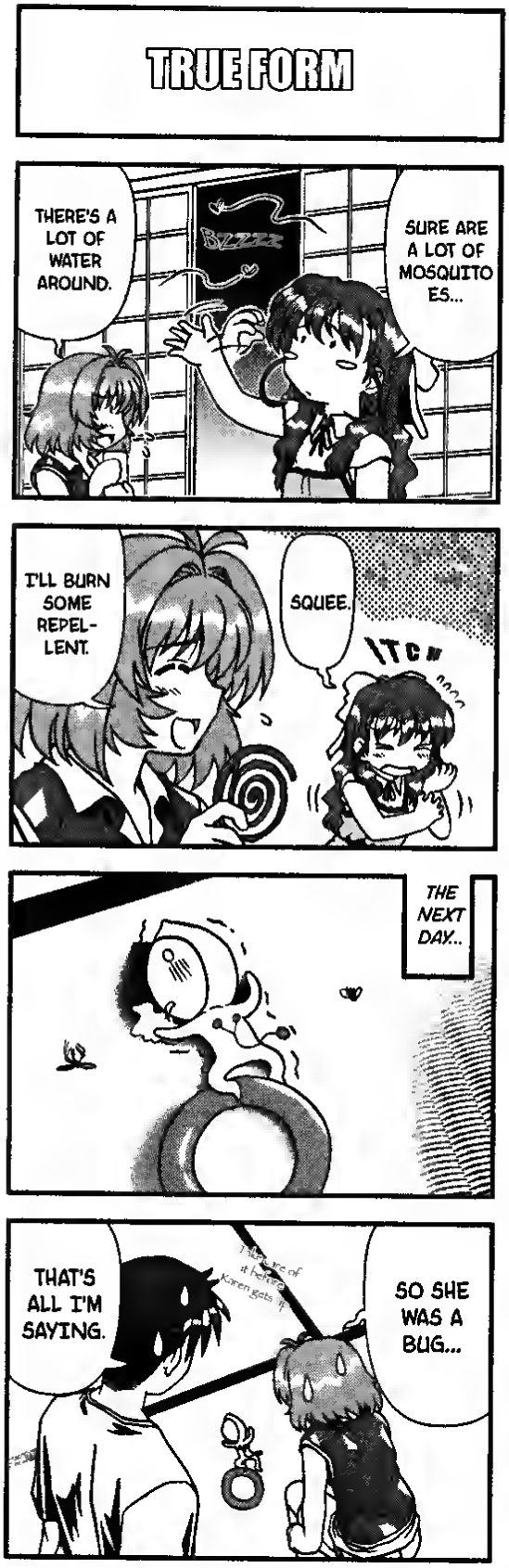
**THE END**

# EXTRAS

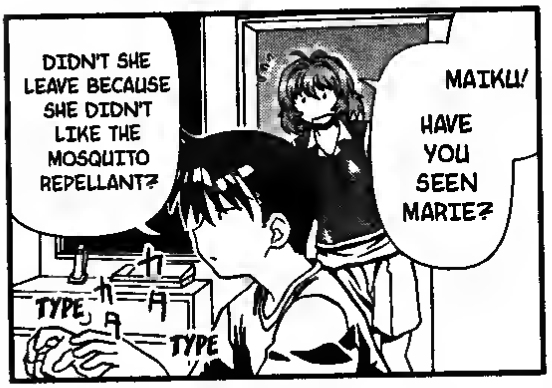
## WANKING

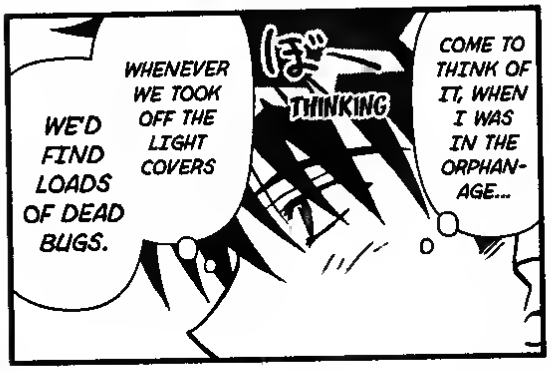


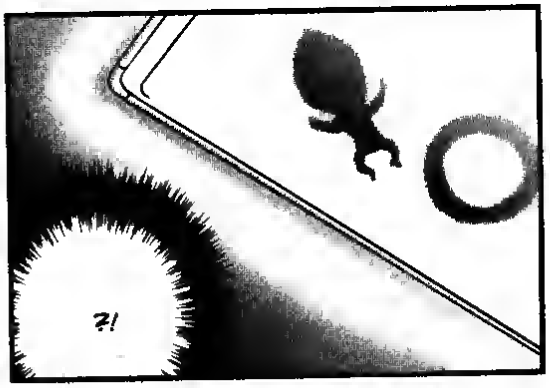



TRUE FORM
THERE'S A LOT OF WATER AROUND.
BZZZZ
SURE ARE A LOT OF MOSQUITOES...
I'LL BURN SOME REPELLENT.
SQUEE.
\TCH
THE NEXT DAY...
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
Take care of it before Karen gets it
SO SHE WAS A BUG...
POVERTY
We are very poor and can't spend money on Frivolities
ガラ
There is no TV in this house
EMPTY
We take one together to raise the water level
SIGH
When we take a bath
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
We eat the burnt ice left over from Maiku's lunch
WE BUY TOO MANY PRECH...
CRUNCH
The prech we buy with the money we save are a very special treat
CRUNCH
ボリ

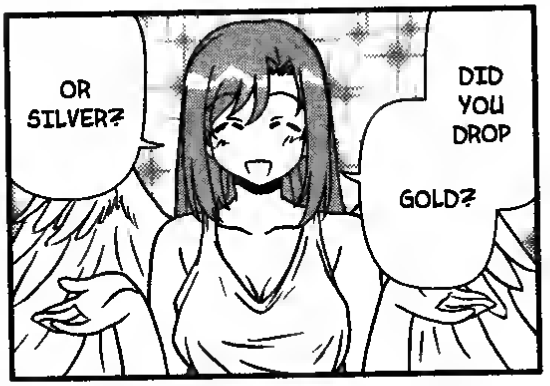
## WHEREABOUTS

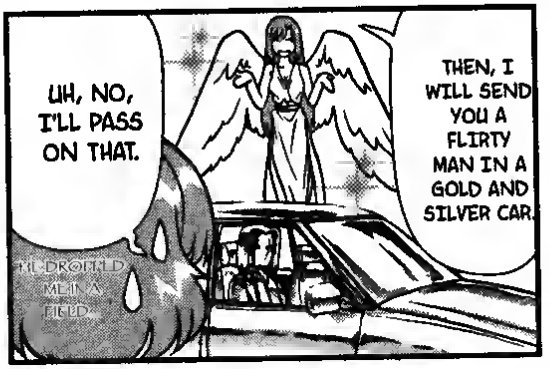




WE'D FIND LOADS OF DEAD BUGS.
WHENEVER WE TOOK OFF THE LIGHT COVERS
ほぢ
THINKING
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN I WAS IN THE ORPHAN-AGE...

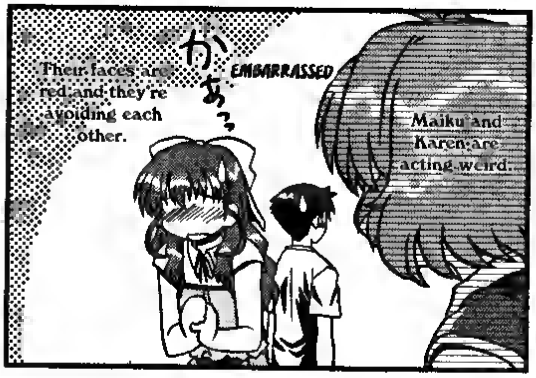



## THE PIER GODDESS – PART 1

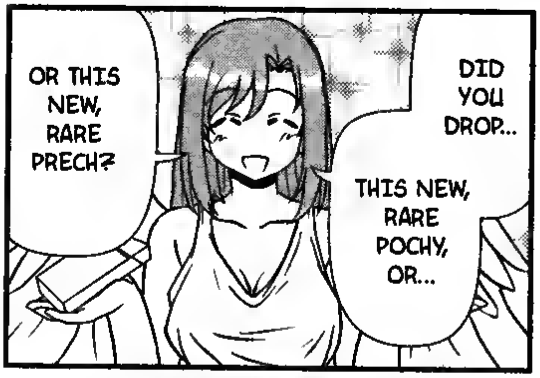


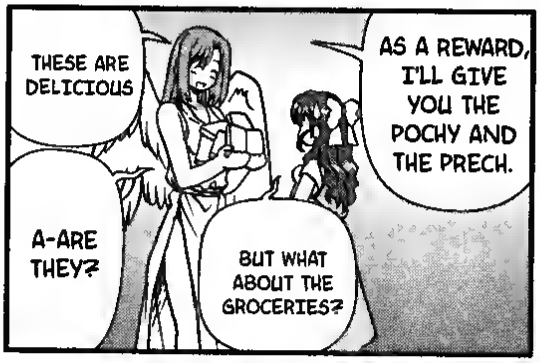


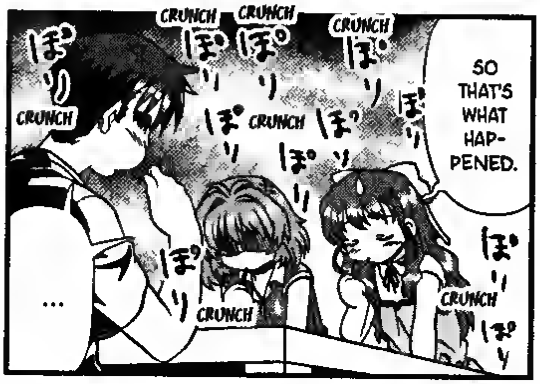
## REASON FOR A POUNDING HEART



## THE PIER GODDESS – PART 2

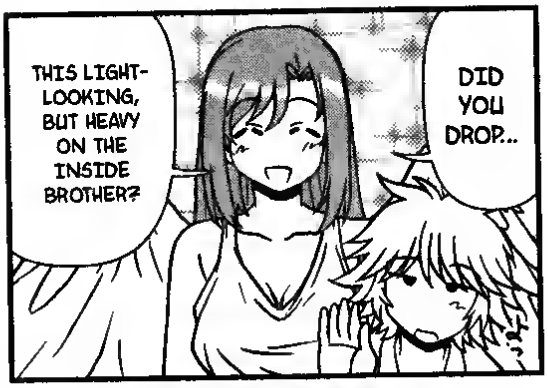


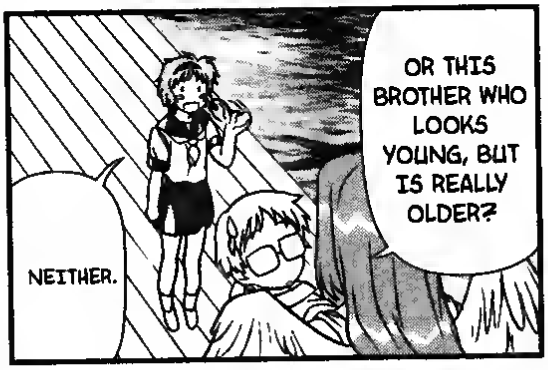


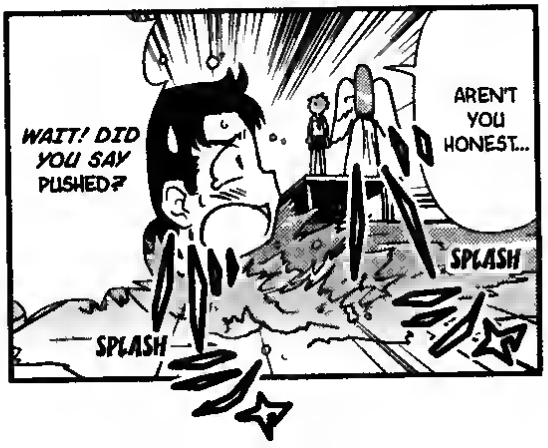



## THE STAIRS TO ADULTHOOD

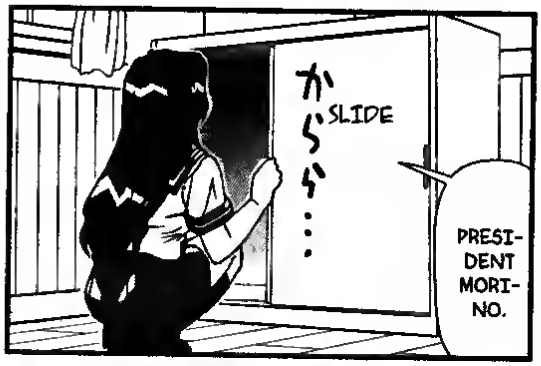
## THE PIER GODDESS – PART 3

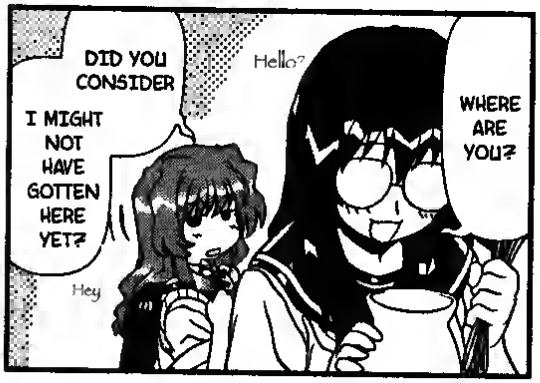


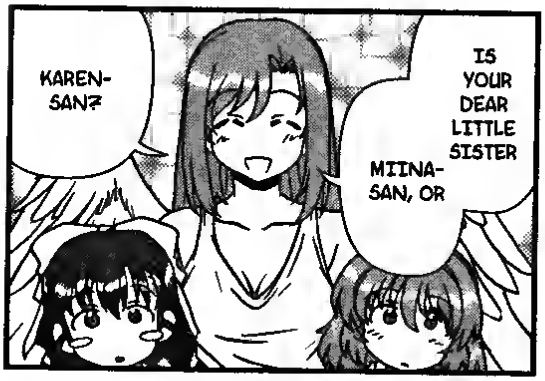


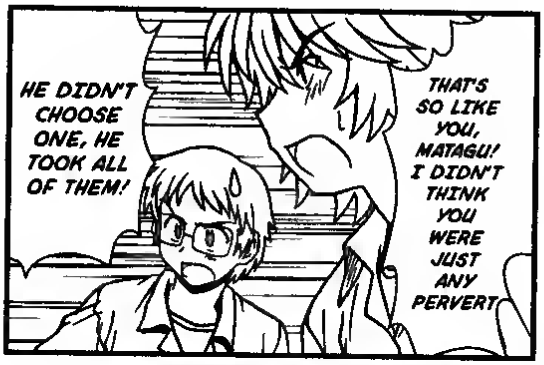
## I'M SURE SHE'S SOMEWHERE

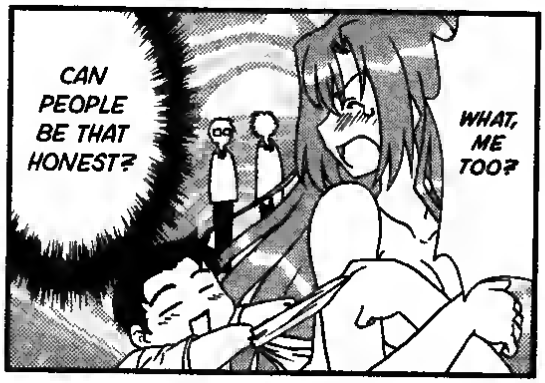


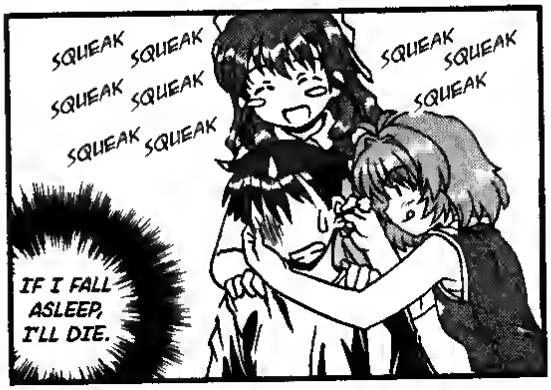

## THE PIER GODDESS – PART 4



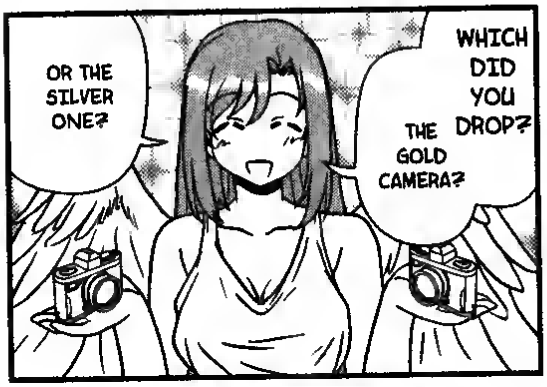


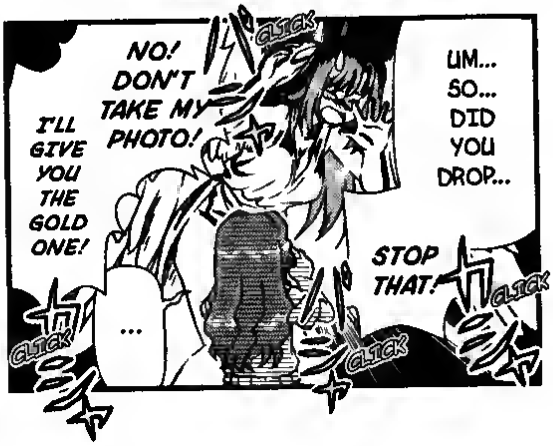



# HOME SERVICE



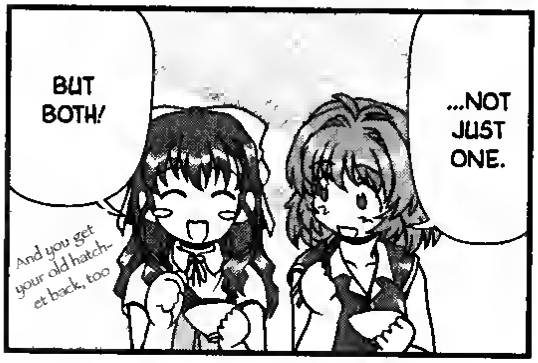

# THE PIER GODDESS – PART 5





FINALLY...

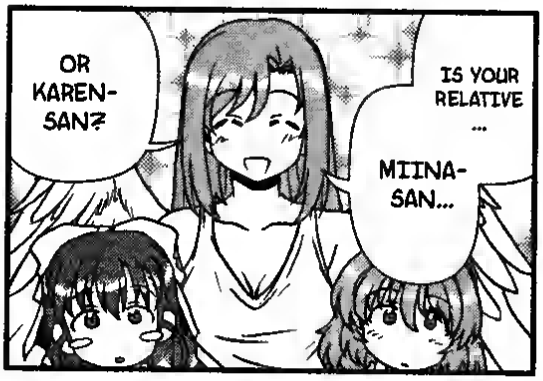
YOU GET THE HATCHETS.
THEN, IF YOU REPLY HONESTLY,
"GOLD HATCHET, SILVER HATCHET"?
The fairy tale?


BUT BOTH!
...NOT JUST ONE.
And you get your old hatchet back, too

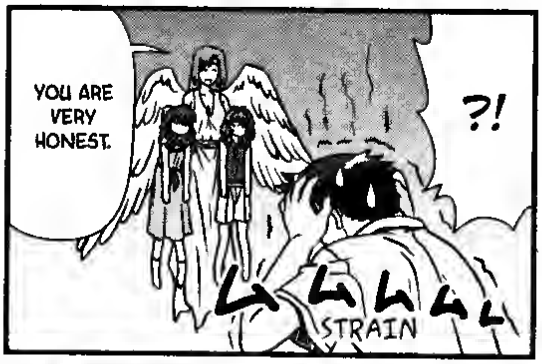
YOU SUDDENLY BECOME RICH.
THAT'S A NICE STORY.
...

?
Well, that's all right
NO, I'VE BECOME MORE POOR THAN I WAS.

THE PIER GODDESS – PART 6


OR KAREN-SAN?
IS YOUR RELATIVE ...
MIINA-SAN...

I CAN PICK?
I'M... SUPPOSED TO PICK ONE?


YOU ARE VERY HONEST.
?!
STRAIN

...
SIGH
はっ

Nice to meet you. I'm Akikan. Thank you for buying the manga of "Onegail Twins". It's my first commercial manga so I went through a lot but I finished it and arrived here. It's all thanks to your help.
Everyone on the Please! Staff and the editors at *Dengeki Comics* and most of all, everyone at the printer's. I can't express my gratitude for the time we worked together. I will keep working to refine my work, in hopes of having another opportunity like this. Good-bye, and thanks for reading. I hope to see you all again.

THIS BOOK WAS PRINTED IN THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE/ASIA FORMAT. PLEASE FLIP THE BOOK OVER AND READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT."